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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
If the election is held today, which of these four who want to run for the delegate position would you vote for?

Let your voice be heard!
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to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Mars Plans

President Barack Obama boldly predicted his new plans for space exploration.

NATION...Page 10



Absentee Voting

The Philippine Consulate General expects many Filipino absentee voters to visit its offices this weekend.

MAHARLIKA...Page 12



Mark Twain

Mark Twain died here on April 21, a century ago. He was 74, and in failing health.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Senate rejects work hour cuts in favor of tax hikes



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Board of Education member Herman T. Guerrero, front row-left, and Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan, front row-second from right, are among education officials to attend yesterday's Senate session wherein senators passed a substitute austerity bill.

PSS surveys: Students approve revising Article 12

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Two surveys conducted among students at a Public School System-sponsored conference on Article 12 yesterday show that a significant number are convinced it is high time to amend the CNMI Constitution's restriction on landownership in the Commonwealth.

The respondents, all of them high school students that participated in PSS' first "Up-Close Initiative" program at Saipan World Resort, support amending the land alienation provision of the Constitution to jumpstart the economy and provide opportunities for landowners to make their own decisions on their property.

Fasefulu Tigilau, PSS program coordinator for social studies and assessment, said a total of 135 students responded to the two surveys conducted before and after the conference.

He said the results indicate a "major" shift in opinion among respondents after hearing the presenters from both sides

during the conference.

The Up-Close pre-conference survey data showed 57 percent (77 students), agreeing to revise the provisions of Article 12 while 28 percent (38 students) responded that it must be kept. About 15 percent (20 students) called for its abolition.

Still, a significant figure of 49 percent (66 students), responded that only voters of Northern Marianas descent should vote on the future of Article 12.

Some 51 percent (69 students) responded otherwise, saying that all registered voters in the Commonwealth

See PSS on Page 4

Reyes slams Froilan anew

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) had strong words again for House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) yesterday, accusing the speaker of not doing his job, meddling in senators' affairs, and abusing public funds, among other things.

But Tenorio also had cutting retorts to Reyes' allegations.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota), meanwhile, asked his col-

leagues for their patience and cooperation with House members.

Reyes, in a privilege speech in yesterday's special Senate session, reiterated that Tenorio "cannot be the speaker and president of both houses at the same time."

Tenorio, when asked for comments on the contents of Reyes' eight-page privilege speech, said Reyes' allegations are false.

"Tell Mr. Reyes that I am doing my job. If this is about the \$5,000 subsistence allowance of senators from Rota

» **Froilan: I would like the House to kill the bill**

» **Basa: Senators not helping immediate fiscal crisis**

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

On a 9-0 vote, the Senate passed yesterday a substitute version of the contentious House austerity bill by removing the 10-hour work reduction every pay period but raises many of the CNMI's taxes and fees to be able to generate revenue.

See SENATE on Page 4

FAST FACTS

What senators propose under House Bill 17-45, HD6, SS1:

- Remove 10-hour work cut every pay period
- Impose 3 unpaid legal holidays
- Raise taxes and fees, including 'sin' taxes
- Impose new fees, including those for ATMs and cell phones
- Create new 'funds'
- Reduce rebate amounts in 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014
- Require CUC to repay \$3.4 million to general fund

and Tinian, I still say that that amount is too much. Maybe they can justify \$2,500 but again everything has to be accounted for... I have every right to question the expenditure of public funds," Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune*.

Reyes said Tenorio backstabbed senators whom he earlier promised to help by offering to appropriate \$1 million in public funds for Rota and Tinian senators on top of their constitutional funding "to increase their subsistence allowance and to spend in whatever manner they see fit in return for their support."

Tenorio said he made no such promise.

At the start of his speech, Reyes
See REYES on Page 4

Mobil to pay \$2.4M fine for air pollution violations. PAGE 2
Hotel occupancy rate at 71 percent in March. PAGE 5

Local

Mobil to pay \$2.4M fine for air pollution violations

HONOLULU—Two subsidiaries of Exxon Mobil Corporation—Mobil Oil Guam, Inc. and Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc.—have agreed to pay \$2.4 million for allegedly violating the federal Clean Air Act by failing to control emissions from their facilities, the Justice Department and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced yesterday.

These two companies allegedly discharged hundreds of tons of volatile organic compounds into the air each year from their bulk gasoline terminals on Cabras Island in Guam and in the Lower Base area of Saipan.

According to a complaint

should serve as a warning to other large companies that they need to ensure that each part of their operations complies with the law—even facilities that are more than 7,000 miles from their headquarters,” said Jared Blumenfeld, the EPA’s regional administrator for the Pacific Southwest region. “In this case, Exxon Mobil stepped forward to address the long-standing pollution problems of its Guam and Saipan subsidiaries.”

As part of the settlement, both subsidiaries have agreed to install air pollution controls and monitors, submit required reports, and obtain appropriate permits. The two subsidiaries estimate

ON THE NET

http://www.justice.gov/enrd/Consent_Decrees.html

filed simultaneously with the settlement, Mobil Oil Guam and Mobil Oil Mariana Islands allegedly failed to install vapor pollution controls on thirteen storage tanks and all of their loading racks at gasoline storage facilities on the islands. Both also allegedly failed to comply with pollution limits, install pollution monitors, and submit required reports.

“This agreement will have a meaningful impact for the citizens who live and work around these facilities. By agreeing to install pollution controls on gasoline storage tanks and loading racks, Mobil Oil Guam and Mobil Oil Mariana Islands will eliminate significant levels of hazardous air pollutants,” said Ignacia S. Moreno, assistant attorney general for the Justice Department’s Environment and Natural Resources Division.

“This enforcement action

that they will spend more than \$15 million to bring the two bulk gasoline terminals into compliance with the Clean Air Act, reducing their yearly discharge of volatile organic compounds by close to 400 tons.

Bulk gasoline terminals are large storage tank facilities where gasoline is loaded into tank trucks for distribution to gasoline service stations. Vapors containing volatile organic compounds and hazardous air pollutants, including the known human carcinogen benzene, can leak from storage tanks, pipes, and tank trucks as they are loaded.

Yesterday’s settlement was lodged in the U.S. District Court for Guam and is subject to a 30-day public comment period and final court approval. A copy of the consent decree is available on the Justice Department Web site at http://www.justice.gov/enrd/Consent_Decrees.html. (USEPA)



AWAODORI TEAM

The Saipan Awaodori Team performs in front of student at Koblerville Elementary School Thursday, accompanied by the Tokyo Tensuien dance team from Japan.

WALTER J. SUTHERLAND

Judge rules allowing alien worker’s umbrella permit to remain in effect

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman has dismissed a lawsuit filed by an alien worker against a company, and ordered that the worker’s umbrella permit will remain in effect.

Wiseman granted Mohamed Rokibul’s motion to dismiss his lawsuit against Philpan International Corp. after the company paid him a settlement amount in full.

The judge ordered that Rokibul’s umbrella permit shall continue in effect, with a next filing date of July 1, 2010.

The hearing on Rokibul’s motion was held last week. Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas, through counsel Eli Golob, did not oppose the judge’s ruling.

Attorney Joseph E. Horey, counsel for Rokibul, said his client has settled all claims against Philpan, both in this lawsuit and in another related civil case.

“[Philpan] has paid the settlement amount in full, and [Rokibul] no longer has any dispute with respondent. His claim against respondent may therefore be dismissed,” Horey said.

Pursuant to Wiseman’s order

in a separate civil case, Labor authorized the issuance of an umbrella permit to Rokibul based on the pendency of this case.

Horey said a worker’s favorable settlement of his Labor case has historically been considered to justify the opportunity for continued employment at the end of the case.

He said Rokibul was and remains eligible for an umbrella permit under the additional and independent ground of being the immediate relative of a citizen of the Free Associated States.

In Rokibul’s petition for judicial review, Horey said his client entered into an employment contract with Philpan in

April 2001. He said Philpan represented that it would submit the contract and supporting documents to Labor for approval.

However, the lawyer said, Philpan left the documents in the care of a person who went off island on April 25, 2001. The person did not return until the expiration of the 45-day transfer period on May 13, 2001.

Horey said Rokibul was therefore rendered unable to work for Philpan as he had contracted to do, and to earn the wages the company has contracted to pay him.

Horey said Rokibul was rendered unable to work for any other employer in the CNMI.

Red flag up at 3 Saipan beaches

The Division of Environment Quality has raised the red flag on three Saipan beach sites—DPW Channel Bridge, south Puerto Rico dump, and Hopwood School Beach—after samples collected from these locations were found to contain excessive concentrations of enterococci, a fecal indicator bacteria that can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ advised the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan’s recreational beaches and storm drainage every Wednesday.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 7th birthday Geraldine DeDios, who is celebrating her special day today April 17, 2010. Greetings come from mama, papa and the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to Joseph Joshua Arthur Attao—affectionately known as “Son Son”—who celebrated his 13th birthday on April 13. Warm greetings come from your parents Mark and Catherine Attao-Toves; your siblings Markel, Theresa, Merrick and Markus; and the rest of your Lapwai, Idaho and Chalan Piao family! We wish you the best on your special day! Photo shows Son Son posing with Bill and Hillary Clinton at the Madame Tussaud’s Wax Museum in Washington, DC.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a MPLT Trustees Regular Meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2010 beginning at 9:00 AM at the MPLT Office, Government Building #1313 (former CEC Office), Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP.

The following agenda is hereby established:

I. PRELIMINARIES

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes

II. CONSULTANT’S REPORTS

- Investment Consultant Reports
 - o Flash Reports - MAR 2010
 - o Atlanta Manager Update
- Loan Administrator Reports
 - o Portfolio Status Update
 - o Default Account Referrals
 - o Payment Re-amortization Schedule
 - o Loan Modifications
- Legal Counsel Reports
 - o Legal Reviews
- Board Consultant Reports
 - o Financial Statements - FEB 2010

III. OLD BUSINESS

- Local High Yield Investments RFP Review
- FY 2008 Annual Report Review & Approval
- Employment Submission Review & Approval
- Administrative Matters for Review

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

- Instructions to Evaluation Committee - MPLT A&E Project

V. NEW BUSINESS

- MPLT Resolution #10-06 Review & Approval
- Certified Question (Certification Order by Speaker of the House)

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Phillip Mendiola-Long, AIF
Chairman, MPLT Trustees

Agnes Archibald
P.O. Box 5694 CHRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: 670.288.0147

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF } FCD CN
THE PETITION FOR } CIVIL
THE CHANGE OF } ACTION
NAME OF: } NO.

AGNES TENORIO
DELEON
GUERRERO,
Petitioner,

NOTICE
OF
HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on May 10, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 14th day of April, 2010.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

'World-class education impossible without federal grants'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

World-class education for CNMI students wouldn't be possible without federal grants provided to the Commonwealth, according to CNMI Board of Education chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita.

Speaking during a public hearing this week, the BOE official emphasized the importance of the CNMI continuing to benefit from federal grants, saying these monies are all for the betterment of students and teachers of the islands.

In her testimony against the passage of the austerity bill at the Senate, Blanco-Maratita said the ESEA Blueprint for Reform emphasizes that every child in America deserves a world-class education.

"If you believe that the CNMI

is a U.S. Commonwealth, that we are members of the American family, then our kids also deserve world-class education. We also believe that. We are committed to providing 'maximum educational and training opportunities' as mandated by our Constitution," she said at the public hearing attended by lawmakers.

Blanco-Maratita said world-class education is especially important for CNMI children today because they face so many challenges; and because of the changes worldwide, they have to be ready to compete in a global society.

"The fact that technology arrived in leaps and bounds means that there are so much more to learn and so much

more that competes for our students' attention. Our teachers have to be much more adept, much more qualified, and much more effective in teaching these young minds that are going a mile a minute into the digital zones and social networks on the internet highway..." she said, adding that CNMI students have to be equipped with 21st century skills of globally awareness, financially and economically literate, creative and critical thinking, and technologically savvy.

Blanco-Maratita, along with education officials and employees, appealed to lawmakers to exempt PSS and Northern Marianas College to the planned austerity measures that would cut

the work hours of employees.

They said this would result in the violation of the maintenance-of-efforts agreement between the CNMI and the federal government.

PSS claims that if the education budget continues to drop, the CNMI will not meet the requirements of the state fiscal stabilization fund that grants the Commonwealth over \$44 million, a big chunk of which is allocated to education.

Last year, PSS received the first phase of the grant, \$32 million, and has been using it for various programs and services.

The U.S. Department of Education early this week warned the administration that violation of the maintenance-of-efforts waiver requirement may result in the automatic non-issuance of the remaining \$16 million of SFSF and the possible reimbursement of \$32 million that was already received.

"If we go below the required funding percentage level that

all states must provide to public education, in our case 22.73 percent...then we stand the risk of not being able to draw down the rest of the funds and have to return what we have received. I wouldn't know where we can find that money lying around in the CNMI," Blanco-Maratita said.

By taking the risk of losing these federal monies, the government is also short-changing the students with the quality

education they need and deserve, she said.

"It would not make sense to do this," she added.

PSS uses the SFSF money to restore teacher positions that were eliminated a few years ago due to the meager local budget; professional development of teachers and leaders; expansion of career and technical education program; renovations and repairs of schools; utilities and others.



Blanco-Maratita

Untalan retires from Public Health

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Deputy secretary and hospital administrator Pete Untalan has retired after several years of serving the Department of Public Health.

His retirement was approved two weeks ago by Public Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez.

Saipan Tribune learned that Warren Villagomez was appointed acting public health and emergency preparedness director, replacing Untalan. Warren Villagomez used to work with Untalan as program planner.

DPH has yet to disclose other details of Untalan's retirement. Secretary Villagomez has not been responding to Saipan Tribune inquiries since last week.

The Department of Public Health is still in a state of emergency as a result of manpower shortage and poor quality of health care services. The administration said the emergency situation is expected to remain until it addresses the lack of healthcare providers at the hospital.

As of March this year, agency records show the Commonwealth Health Center has 38 doctors and 275 nurses onboard, most of whom are nonresident workers. The department earlier disclosed it needs about 43 full-time doctors to be considered fully staffed.

CHC has been losing physicians and other health care providers due to unattractive salary levels and benefits.

In an earlier interview with Saipan Tribune, Secretary Villagomez said DPH is now working on adjusting the salaries of physicians and other employees to keep a stable staffing pattern at the hospital.

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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TRASH COLLECTION SERVICES

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
CPA-RFP-001-10A**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting cost proposals for trash collection services for a period of two years. The collection locations and scope of work package is available Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor, Arrival Building, at the Saipan International Airport.

Interested proposers are encouraged to contact CPA's Terminal Maintenance Department at 237-6500 to make arrangements for a site visit of the trash collection locations.

Interested proposers must submit one original and four copies of the sealed cost proposal for the term of two-years service, a description of proposer's past performance and experience, list of equipment, and proof of insurance in compliance with CPA's insurance requirements. The employees of the winning proposer accessing the secured areas at the airport will be required to obtain an airport security badge which includes finger-printing and criminal background check, at the expense of the proposer.

The sealed proposals must be submitted before **4:30 p.m., Friday, April 30, 2010**, at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, at the Saipan International Airport. CPA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals if in its opinion to do so is in CPA's best interest.

Signature of Edward M. DeLeon Guerrero
EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

Date: April 15, 2010

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IT&E
Life in Motion

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man who entered into a sham marriage with a U.S. citizen woman pleaded guilty in federal court yesterday.

Crisanto Maderal Olivos signed a plea agreement and pleaded guilty to one count of immigration document fraud.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Mark W. Bennett accepted the plea agreement and Olivos' guilty plea. Bennett set the sentencing for July 20, 2010 at 9am. He directed the U.S. Probation Office to prepare a pre-sentence report on or before June 15, 2010.

Assistant U.S. attorney Kirk Schuler asked the court to allow Olivos to remain at liberty under the same conditions and terms the court had previously imposed. Attorney Colin Thompson, counsel for Olivos, did not object.

Bennett granted the U.S. government's motion.

According to the plea agreement, Olivos entered into a fraudulent marriage with a U.S. citizen on Sept. 14, 2001. The

marriage was allegedly arranged and witnessed by Olivos' co-defendant, Maria Calipay Maderal Camacho, who allegedly paid the U.S. citizen to marry Olivos.

About a month later, Olivos applied for a U.S. permanent resident card or "green card" with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, based on his alleged marriage.

On Jan. 3, 2007, Olivos and his purported U.S. citizen wife flew from Saipan to Guam to be interviewed by USCIS for the "green card" application. Camacho met them at the airport and took them to the USCIS office.

During the interview, Olivos made false statements to USCIS to have his "green card" application approved. Camacho picked the couple up after the interview.

On Jan. 4, 2007, Olivos received his "green card."

Olivos and Camacho were indicted on charges of conspiring to defraud the U.S. and to commit immigration document fraud, and immigration document fraud.

Camacho pleaded not guilty.

REYES

From Page 1

asked for an apology ahead of time if what he has to say appears harsh and offensive to his colleagues.

“Sometimes I wish I could go inside his [Tenorio’s] head and rearrange some wires in there to make him understand that. Unfortunately, I cannot,” Reyes said.

At this and other points in Reyes’s speech, some senators and other people in the Senate gallery were either chuckling or laughing.

Reyes said Tenorio “is now beginning to create a serious threat to the relationship between the House

and the Senate,” which he said is not needed at this time “when the people of the Commonwealth are suffering from [an] economic disaster.”

Shortly after taking office as speaker of the 17th House, Tenorio ordered Legislative Bureau director Glenna SP. Reyes to step down from her post to give way to a new director chosen by the new legislative leadership.

The bureau director is Sen. Pete P. Reyes’s wife.

Manglona said the House and Senate should honor Glenna Reyes’ contract, which expires in September 2010, but Tenorio submitted a certified question to the court to resolve the impasse.

“I want to assure him that I won’t

be appointing my wife as head of the LB when his wife is no longer there,” Tenorio said.

Reyes said Tenorio failed to deliver on his inaugural session promise of passing a balanced Fiscal Year 2010 budget in 30 days starting on Jan. 11, 2010.

“Well now, Mr. Speaker, it is more than 90 days and the Senate does not even have a concurrent resolution that will set the level of expenditure for the budget,” he said.

The House speaker said his statement in January has become moot, citing that the CNMI “has a budget, and that’s the continuing resolution. An opinion from the attorney general determined that the constitutional

amendment requiring a balanced and timely budget does not apply to Fiscal Year 2010.”

Reyes also talked about Tenorio’s actions when he was still the governor of the CNMI, and took issue with Tenorio working for his brother’s business.

Tenorio said he is not soliciting projects for his brother’s company.

Other senators also voiced out yesterday their concerns about the House speaker. They said they are working hard to fulfill their obligations to the people who elected them and to the CNMI as a whole, and won’t delve on pleasing Tenorio.

Reyes said it’s only Tenorio, at least in recent history, who availed

himself of the free government housing as House speaker. The privilege is also afforded to the Senate president.

Tenorio said he used the free government housing on Capital Hill only on three occasions and only to host off-island investors whose investments will benefit the CNMI.

“It’s assigned to me, so I can use it,” Tenorio said.

Reyes said the use of the house is an “abuse of public funds.”

Toward the end of his speech, Reyes said he’s giving Tenorio six months before he turns his back to House members supporting him.

“Some elected officials tell me this is so long,” Reyes said, deviating from his prepared speech.

PSS

From Page 1

should decide the fate of Article 12.

Just hours after a panel discussion with speakers from both sides, the survey results showed a major change in the students’ opinions, with those who favor the law’s revision increasing to 67 percent (91 students).

The number of students who initially

avored keeping Article 12 dropped from 28 percent to only 9 percent (19 percent swing).

Additionally, respondents who want to abolish Article 12 entirely increased remarkably from the initial 15 percent to 24 percent (9 percent swing).

Opinions about who should vote on the fate of Article 12 increased among those who said that only voters of NMI descent should make that decision, from 49 percent in the first survey to 53 per-

cent in the second (4 percent swing).

A 4-percent decrease was noted among those who want all registered voters to decide on the fate of Article 12, from the initial 51 percent down to 47 percent.

Overall, the survey data showed that 50 percent of all respondents in both surveys conceded that the conference changed their position on Article 12; only 46 percent claimed it did not.

Only 4 percent (5 students) were still undecided on the issue.

‘Successful kickoff’

Tigilau described yesterday’s launch of the PSS Up-Close Initiative Program as successful after over 150 students took part in the whole-day event from 8am to 3pm.

He said the “interface” discussion of students with the panelists and presenters helped to bring about awareness and a better understanding of the topic.

Speakers in yesterday’s discussion included Vicente N. Santos, Lorenzo

LG. Cabrera, Florence Kirby, and John Gonzales, who were in favor of retaining Article 12. The group members in favor of abolishing Article 12 included Alexander Sablan, Vincent Seman, Tina Sablan, and Ambrose Bennett.

Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution restricts landownership in the Commonwealth to those of Northern Marianas descent. It is scheduled to be placed in next year’s ballot for people to decide whether to retain it or abolish it.

SENATE

From Page 1

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said he would want the House to “kill the bill” passed by the Senate.

Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan), author of the original austerity bill, said the Senate version does not help address the immediate need to curtail government costs in light of the revised \$137 million projected revenue for Fiscal Year 2010.

Basa said senators removed what was essentially the centerpiece of his bill—reducing the work hours of government workers by one hour a day, from 7:30am to 8:30am.

The Senate-passed bill, House Bill 17-45, HD6, SS1 also cuts rebate amounts from 2011 to 2014, and imposes new fees and hiring freeze.

Senators said the additional revenue generated by the increased or new fees and taxes will not only go toward essential public services, but will also be a substitute for not reducing government costs by way of cutting down work hours, from 80 to 70, per pay period.

All the nine members of the Senate were present yesterday.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) lauded the Fiscal Affairs Committee led by chair Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) for conducting public hearings on the bill and for coming up with recommendations on how to best address the government’s fiscal crisis without touching the salaries of government workers.

3 unpaid legal holidays

The Senate’s version of the bill retains only the three unpaid legal holidays for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2010 except for critical positions such as nurses, doctors and police officers.

Senators also exempted the Public School System, Northern Marianas College and constitutionally protected positions from the unpaid legal holidays. These unpaid legal holidays are the Memorial Day on May 31, Liberation Day on July 4, and Labor Day on Sept. 6.

The bill is now called the “Unpaid

Legal Holidays and Revenue Generating Act of 2010.”

Constitutionally protected positions include the governor, lieutenant governor, lawmakers, judges and justices.

PSS Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan, who was at the Senate session yesterday, thanked senators for making sure that funds meant for PSS will not be jeopardized and that students will achieve quality education.

“On behalf of the children, staff and parents...thank you,” Sablan told the senators.

The people in the Senate gallery applauded when the bill passed the Senate.

The Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee said “it is not in the best interest of the people and the CNMI to implement a 10-hour per period reduction at this time.”

They cited three major reasons for not approving the work hour cuts.

“It is incumbent on the administration to live within its means, refrain from unnecessary purchases and hiring of non-essential personnel during this time of austerity. Yet the administration continues to certify positions for non-essential employees to be hired such as trainees and administrative employees,” said the committee in its seven-page report, which the full Senate adopted yesterday.

The six-member committee also cited the results of the public hearings on Saipan, Tinian and Rota wherein people expressed strong opposition to any wage cuts. They also said the Fiscal Affairs Committee did not inform the Legislature of its plans to cut its expenditures.

“However, the committee is still cognizant of the government’s precarious financial situation and offers an alternative cost reduction measure for FY 2010,” it said.

During the session, however, senators did not clarify that their substitute bill no longer includes the proposed 10-hour work cut, from 80 to 70 hours per pay period.

Rather, senators only pointed out during the session that the bill intends to raise taxes or impose new ones, as well as cut rebates, among other things.

‘Senators not helping’

H.B. 17-45, HD6, SS1 now goes back

to the House of Representatives for action.

Basa said the Senate’s amendments to his bill will not help the government’s fiscal crisis. “The government does not have money now and the senators are not helping with the immediate problem,” he said.

Basa also took issue with the senators’ substantial amendments to his bill, adding that it does not have resemblance to his original bill other than his name on it.

The Senate retained Basa’s name as author of the bill.

“I will not support any increase in taxes and fees,” he added.

The Senate version of the bill also imposes freeze hiring in any branch of the government.

It also prohibits travel by government employees for trainings or meetings outside the CNMI, except for official travels by the governor and lieutenant governor, lawmakers, mayors, municipal council members, and travels necessary for the coverage of judicial business.

The bill also requests that upon enactment of the Senate version of the bill, the governor rescind the notices of furlough issued to employees of the Executive Branch.

Fee and tax increases

Senators, by passing the substitute bill, approved the increases in existing fees and taxes as well as the imposition of new ones.

The bill increases the annual license fees of poker machines and similar amusement machines from \$6,000 to \$7,500. It exempts from this fee increase the machines licensed by the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission.

The Senate bill also increases the excise tax on cigarettes, tobacco, beer, distilled alcoholic beverages, wine, and sake.

For example, the excise tax on cigarettes will be increased from \$1.75 to \$3 per 20 cigarettes.

Excise tax on tobacco or tobacco substitute will be increased from 60 to 70 percent of the invoice price.

From 2 cents, the excise tax per fluid ounce of beer and malt beverages will

become 2.5 cents.

For distilled alcoholic beverages, the excise tax will be increased from 18 cents to 20 cents per fluid ounce.

The excise tax for wine and sake will become 8 cents from only 5 cents per fluid ounce.

Senators also imposed an increase from 10 percent to 15 percent on the bar tax on alcoholic beverage sales.

The bill also increases eight license fees, including the wholesale agents’ license from \$250 to \$500.

The retail dealers’ on-sale license fees for beer and wine will increase from \$20 to \$100; general, from \$30 to \$150; and general (if Class A restaurant license holder), from \$25 to \$125.

The retail dealers’ off-sale license for beer and wine will be increased from \$25 to \$100, and general, from \$30 to \$150.

The temporary beer license will be increased from \$10 to \$50, while club license will increase from \$100 to \$500.

Tobacco sales license fees will also increase, including wholesale agent’s license from \$300 to \$500; retail dealer (general license) from \$100 to \$200; retail dealer (vending machine) from \$75 to \$100, and distributor (vending machine), from \$100 to \$150.

New fees, other cuts

Senators approved the imposition of a license fee for ATMs or automated teller machines, amounting to \$1,000 per machine.

Their approved bill also imposes a 10 percent excise tax on cellular or mobile phones.

The Senate-passed bill also lowers the exemption threshold for personal and office computer equipment, from those having a value of less than \$5,000 to less than \$1,000.

It also imposes on every individual entering the CNMI \$1 in customs, agricultural and quarantine inspection service surcharge fee, the proceeds of which are deposited into the general fund.

Tax rebate cuts

The bill also substantially reduces the tax rebate amount from 2011 to 2014, and allocates the additional revenues

generated from the rebate reduction to the Commonwealth Health Center.

If the rebate base is not over \$20,000, the rebate amount will be cut from 90 to 80 percent of the rebate base.

For those over \$20,000 but not over \$60,000, the rebate amount will be changed from \$18,000 to \$16,000, plus 70 percent of the rebate base over \$20,000.

For those over \$60,000 but not over \$100,000, the rebate amount is \$44,000 plus 50 percent of the rebate base over \$60,000.

For rebate base over \$100,000, the rebate amount will be reduced from \$74,000 to \$64,000, plus 30 percent—over 50 percent—of the rebate base over \$100,000.

Any savings on the rebate offset amount will be used to buy a magnetic resonance imaging machine and CAT scan machine for CHC, to improve and enhance the diagnostic capability of the medical professionals.

The savings will also be used to buy 60 new beds for CHC, and for other public health purchases and spending as determined by the health secretary.

After 2014, the rebate amounts will go back to the original amount.

Others

The bill also mandates that 50 percent of any educational tax credit donation shall be remitted to the CNMI Scholarship Office.

It creates a Department of Public Safety Operating Fund, to come from 40 percent of criminal and civil fines collected by CNMI courts or any other fines or fees under any law.

The bill also establishes a Judicial Building Fund, which shall come from the remaining 60 percent of criminal and civil fines or fees remitted to the CNMI courts.

The bill also requires the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to repay \$3.4 million to the general fund in three equal installments beginning June 1, 2010 and ending on Aug. 1, 2010.

The funds shall be first used to supplement any shortfall from any rebate savings for the purchase of an MRI machine, CAT scan machine and 60 beds for CHC.

Resident frustrated with illegal dumping in Koblerville



WALTER J. SUTHERLAND

Koblerville resident Daniel Durkin shows off the trash littering the field along Gollaiappan Court. The area contains an old junk car, two televisions, old furniture, numerous piles of rusted metal and glass, a refrigerator, old tires, and remnants of car parts and other appliances.

By **WALTER J. SUTHERLAND**
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Concerned resident Daniel Durkin is fed up with illegal dumping that has been taking place in his neighborhood in Koblerville, especially in a field near his home along Gollaiappan Court off of Adobu Drive.

"I have gone to the Department of Environmental Quality, the Zoning Office, the Governor's Office, Parks and Recreation, and to the mayor, trying to convince any of them to address this serious issue and they keep blowing me off. From my understanding the governor has cut the funds at the Mayor's Office so badly that it's virtually impossible for him to maintain his municipal responsibilities," said Durkin.

The field near his home contains a car, two televisions, a refrigerator, old furniture, various piles of rusted metal, old tires, and many other old scattered car parts and appliances.

"I have been trying to clean this trash up myself, but a lot of it is just too large to move. Where am I supposed to take this stuff anywhere? There are a lot of children that play in this area and this garbage poses a dangerous threat to their safety," said Durkin.

He claims that someone just pushed some of the trash back even further into the backwoods with some type of heavy equipment instead of removing it.

Durkin is also unsatisfied with the stipulations of the rehabilitation contract for the public basketball court, near the same field in Koblerville. This \$18,500 contract was activated back on Feb. 10, 2010, where the contractor, 3K Corporation, had 60 days to finish the project.

"I appreciate that they fixed the lights, but the painting was poorly applied and, most importantly, the fence should be replaced and properly constructed," said Durkin.

Durkin insists that the old fence is still unsafe.

"The rebar [bottom of the fence] should be buried in the ground and the supporting poles are supposed to be on the outside of the chain links. The fencing should be replaced with treated, rust-resistant metal and a new fence should be properly installed to ensure the kids' safety. I am not saying that the contractor breached the contract; I just never agreed [with the] wording of the contract to begin with. They did not fix the fence; they just painted over the rust. It looks like an \$18,500 paint job in my opinion," said Durkin.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from 3K Corp. but was told that company president Paul S. Khang was off island and unable to comment.

Durkin is also disturbed about broken glass in the parking lot and the overfilled, uncovered trash can. He also urged the Department of Public Safety to observe questionable activity that occurs in the court during night hours.

contact the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture at 1-670-322-9982/83 or mariana-sarts@pticom.com. (MVA)

MMAC seeks entertainers

The 2010 Marianas March Against Cancer committee is looking for singers, dancers, bands and other entertainers who are interested in performing live at the 2010 MMAC. There are different time slots available throughout the event, which will run from 6pm to 6am on May 14-15 at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao. All entertainers are encouraged to show their support in the fight against cancer by volunteering to perform at the largest cancer fundraising event in the CNMI. Interested individuals or groups are urged to contact 2010 MMAC entertainment committee chairs Jojo Camacho or L.J. Castro at 483-1027 or via email at ljmamis@gmail.com or ljc27@hotmail.com. (MMAC)

2010 Flame Tree Arts Festival set next week

The 29th annual Flame Tree Arts Festival, Micronesia's largest annual arts and cultural celebration, will be held April 23-25, 2010, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

This popular festival features visual, performing and culinary arts of numerous cultures, including indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian arts as well as from cultures of Micronesia, the Asia-Pacific region, and beyond. The festival, coordinated by the Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture, will be held at Susupe Beach Park and will be open Friday evening and morning to evening on Saturday and Sunday.

The festival will feature 20 food booths and 60 booths for artists and non-profit organizations. Admission is free.

For more information about the Flame Tree Arts Festival,

ings or color, gender, and what the collar looks like.

NEWS BRIEFS

Navy to conduct military training at Warning Area-517

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Navy will conduct military training at Warning Area-517 on April 20-21 from 8am to 4pm.

The general public, especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators, are advised to stay clear from this area during the times and dates indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. (USN)

Kitten found

A tiny young kitten has been found in LauLau Beach area, with a collar but no ID. Call 285-0020 and leave a message describing your kitten's mark-

Hotel occupancy rate at 71 percent in March

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported 71 percent occupancy among its 13 member hotels for March 2010, a 12-percent increase from March 2009.

Of the 84,165 rooms nights available in March, a total of 59,743 were sold, compared to 50,658 of 85,259 available room nights

sold over the same period last year. Room rates were down slightly from \$89.38 last year to \$90.55 in March 2010.

For Calendar Year 2010, occupancy is averaging 76 percent and room rates are averaging \$98.85. This compares to 73 percent occupancy and \$99.99 room rate over the same period last

calendar year.

The increase was attributed in part to the Korean economy's recovery and staging of sports events such as Saipan Marathon, XTERRA Saipan Championship, and Tagaman triathlon.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the Northern Mariana Islands. (HANMI)



Federal court judge a 'high-tech magistrate'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Iowa judge who presided over the motion filed by former lieutenant governor Timothy P. Villagomez, James A. Santos, and Joaquina V. Santos, has a reputation for being a "high-tech magistrate."

Mark W. Bennett is the chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa. He is currently on Saipan as the U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge.

Bennett is expected to be in the CNMI until next week. Among the cases he has heard on Saipan was Villagomez's and the Santos couple's motion that

they be released on bail while their appeal with the Ninth Circuit is pending.

During Villagomez's motion hearing on Wednesday, Bennett said he will issue a ruling next week and that he is planning to include photographs of the courtroom.

The courtroom became an issue after lawyers for Villagomez and the Santos couple cited that during the trial, family members and supporters of the defendants failed to watch the proceeding as then U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Alex R. Munson barred anyone from occupying a large portion of the courtroom.

Bennett said he has a keen in-

terest in technology and that he will include photographs in his opinion.

According to U.S. District Court for Iowa's Web site, Bennett's keen interest in technology led him to complete a project for the U.S. courts where he was instrumental in the design, development, testing and implementation of new case management software based on state of the art WEB browser technology.

Bennett reportedly applied technology to judging, which has led to the remodeling of the main historic courtroom in Sioux City. He has tried hundreds of cases in his high-tech courtroom for nearly a decade, according to the U.S. District Court.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
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ADDENDUM NO. 1 04-16-10 ITB10-GOV-087

Phase II, Hardening/Renovations of the Juan A. Sablan Administration Building and Elevator Installation Project"

The previously advertised notice, Invitation To Bids ("ITB") for the "Phase II, Hardening/Renovations of the Juan A. Sablan Administration Building and Elevator Installation Project" has been amended. The specific amendment is to include seven (7) sheets of plans and specifications to retrofit energy efficient type windows, extend when bids are due when bids will open and performance time to 180 calendar days. Amendment shall read:

Bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, May 11, 2010. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time May 11, 2010, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 11, 2010 and must be received no later than 3:00 p.m. May 20, 2010 (Saipan Local Time). Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 4:00 p.m. Saipan local time, May 20, 2010. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 11:00 a.m. Saipan local time, on May 11, 2010.

All other elements of the ITB remain as originally provided. For further information on this project, please contact the Office of Capital Improvement, Capitol Hill, Saipan, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. - Monday through Friday, except holidays) or by contacting Mr. Carl Castro, Project Coordinator at 664-2371 or by fax at 664-2408. Questions are due no later than close of business day April 27, 2010.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement & Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Making immigration work

For advocates of immigration reform, the first year of President Obama's tenure has been a huge disappointment. It made sense to tackle the economy and health care reform first, but the administration has no excuse for failing to change unfair and mean-spirited immigration programs under executive control.

Leading Democrats in Congress are signaling that they're ready to fight for a legislative overhaul of immigration. Great; go for it.

But meanwhile, there's nothing to stop the administration from doing a better job of implementing and enforcing laws already on the books.

The place to start is with the Department of Homeland Security's outsourcing program, known as 287(g), that allows local agencies to enforce immigration laws. Earlier this month, the department's own inspector general cited the program for poor performance.

The report found a host of problems, including a lack of proper training; insufficient oversight by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE); evidence that officers often overstepped their authority; and an inconsistent application of standards among jurisdictions.

What's worse is that it promotes racial profiling, diverts scarce resources, and creates a deep mistrust of police departments in the barrios, precisely those neighborhoods where local law enforcement needs the cooperation of residents to stop real crime.

These are chronic problems that became more common as anti-immigrant fervor swept the country. A 2009 evaluation of 287(g) by the General Accountability Office was full of similar criticisms. Private organizations like the Washington-based Police Foundation have been equally critical.

Few actions could better serve to demonstrate Obama's sincerity as an immigration reformer than a decision to end the 287(g) program. He doesn't need Congress' permission.

The 287(g) program isn't the only problem at ICE. On the campaign trail in 2008, Obama was an outspoken foe of tactics that tore families apart in the name of immigration enforcement simply for the sake of pumping up detention and deportation numbers. Yet just weeks ago, The Washington Post reported that a key official in ICE had written a memo to do just that by setting detention quotas for agents. Although it was later disowned by the agency, the policies the memo outlined are indicative of a bureaucratic mindset at ICE that is little changed since Obama became president.

He promised that he would focus on smarter and more effective enforcement, not simply hyping the numbers, but some bureaucrats at ICE obviously haven't gotten the word.

The agency needs sweeping changes to eliminate what Human Rights Watch last year called a lack of "basic fairness" in the immigration system, including the practice of transferring undocumented immigrants in custody from one jail to another to make it hard for them to access legal counsel.

Creating more fairness in the immigration system is an objective that has eluded several presidents, but that should not preclude Obama from giving it his all.

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Anxiety: CNMI's worsening epidemic

Stress, anxiety, and depression: What it is and how to deal with it

Second of a two-part series

As you may recall from the previous article on anxiety, the CNMI is suffering from an epidemic of anxiety and depression. We looked at the various stressors: from family issues to the financial state of the CNMI. These stressors can eventually become overwhelming and produce a number of varied and uncomfortable symptoms. The usual symptoms of anxiety (and even depression) were listed in the previous article. Current medical science is able to physiologically explain only a few of those symptoms. Most remain a mystery as to why the body suffers such physical symptoms when its host (meaning "you") is stressed out. Because those symptoms come in such a variety of shapes and sizes, and because they simply don't make sense, it often becomes a challenge to put such symptoms together and come up with a diagnosis of "anxiety."

So, let's say you read Part One and find that you are indeed suffering from anxiety and/or depression. Now, what can we do about? Unfortunately, the choices are somewhat limited in the CNMI. Classic stress reduction suggests exercise as the number one, non-medicinal treatment. Exercising 40 minutes a day, 4-5 days a week, can cause certain positive improvements in body chemistry, which significantly reduces the negative impact of stress overload. The type of exercise found to be most beneficial is the strenuous, non-stop, sweat-producing, cardio-type exercise. Many of us would probably need to start at a not-very-brisk walk for ten minutes, and gradually work ourselves up to eventually achieve our goal. If you're not in shape, chat with your provider first to see what would be best for you. Unfortunately, the very folks who need the stress reduction the most are the very ones least likely to find any free time for exercise. Many of my patients are working long hours at one or two jobs just to put food on the table, come home to care for the kids, and are exhausted at the end of their day. Not an "excuse," but the reality of the times. Exercise simply is not an option for many.

Another way suggested to reduce stress is to take a vacation. Yeah, right! Who has the money to take a couple of weeks' vacation on Aruba or a trip to Europe to relieve your stress? Many of

By BILL WEISS, PA-C
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bill Weiss is a physician assistant at the Marianas Medical Center.



my patients cannot remember the last time they took a real vacation or even had some free time. Although it sounds great in theory, in practice "getting away" is also not a viable option for many.

For those who do have a bit of "free time", taking a relaxing stroll on the beach at sunset, getting involved in a hobby or doing some kind of pleasing activity may be quite helpful. Donating your time to a worthwhile community service or getting involved in some group oriented activity (such as Beautify CNMI!, Red Cross, CHC Volunteers, etc.) can take your mind off the stressors and give you a feeling of accomplishment.

Some of my patients who suffer from general anxiety disorder have symptoms such as tension headaches and stress-related chest pain. They become overly anxious that these are strokes or heart attacks and become even more anxious. With some reassurance, once they understand that these symptoms are not serious and that they are experiencing "normal" symptoms to stress overload, they feel relieved enough that no further treatment is indicated.

We all have different backgrounds and genetic makeup; we are all unique in how we cope with our stressors, or handle the symptoms associated with anxiety. There are a number of suggested strategies each of us can employ to deal with stress; however, as I mentioned earlier, many of the usual strategies simply are not viable options to many of us who live in the CNMI. And here lies the crux of the matter. The rest of this article will be devoted to the "pharmaceutical solutions." If daily exercise, the occasional vacation, several sessions with one of the CNMI's experienced and capable psychologists, or sending the kids away to summer camp for a

Some of my patients who suffer from general anxiety disorder have symptoms such as tension headaches and stress-related chest pain. They become overly anxious that these are strokes or heart attacks and become even more anxious.

See ANXIETY on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Will third time be the charm for Kyrgyzstan?

By PAVEL DYATLENKO
THE INSTITUTE FOR WAR&PEACE REPORTING

BISHEK, Kyrgyzstan—For the third time in less than 20 years, this country is getting a chance to transform itself from a clan-based autocracy into a democracy. But many observers are skeptical that the latest coup will lead to meaningful political reform.

The country’s first president, Askar Akaev, who emerged after the country gained its independence with the collapse of the former Soviet Union in 1991, was quick to concentrate power in the hands of his family, using his political influence to control the economy and accumulate vast personal wealth.

Akaev was ousted in March 2005 during the Tulip Revolution that brought opposition leader Kurmanbek Bakiyev to power. Bakiyev was elected president in July 2005 after promising to

implement democratic reforms and improve the economy.

But after nearly five years in office, critics accused Bakiyev of failing to improve the economy and becoming increasingly authoritarian.

Now, the interim government that ousted him earlier this month has a chance to avoid the mistakes of its predecessors and fulfill the promise of the 2005 revolution.

Its success, however, depends on its ability to overcome what many see as the overarching obstacle to establishing democracy in Kyrgyzstan: the country’s clan-based political system.

In Kyrgyz politics, kinship and regional allegiances remain an important factor. As a result, access to power and, in particular, allocation of top government posts is determined by one’s association with the ruling clan.

The best way to overcome this obstacle is by strengthening

the role of the legislature to reduce the president’s authority.

Two efforts already announced by the interim government—a referendum on a new constitution and a general election within six months—are steps in the right direction.

As for economic policy, the new leaders need to create incentives for businesses to grow. The measures could include reducing taxes, offering affordable loans to businesses and combating government corruption.

Kyrgyzstan’s new rulers will rely on backing and financial help from the international community to successfully accomplish their tasks. The people of Kyrgyzstan deserve another chance at achieving democracy.

Pavel Dyatlenko is a political analyst in Bishek who writes for The Institute for War & Peace Reporting, a nonprofit organization that trains journalists in areas of conflict.

ANXIETY

From Page 6

couple of months were reasonable options, then using medication would be much farther down on the list of options. My clinical experience suggests the very real benefits of medication for some people when other strategies don’t work for an individual or when those strategies are impractical. I do encourage trying various non-pharmaceutical methods of stress reduction first.

There are basically two types of medications for people who are suffering from the symptoms of anxiety or depression. The first type includes all of the fast acting but *short term meds*. Clearly, there are both advantages and disadvantages to this group. The short term meds are used best for people with “situational anxiety” (stress overload because, say, a family member died or you just got laid off work), people suffering from panic attacks, people who have occasional problems falling asleep (“I get into bed and I start thinking too much”), or for those who generally handle their stressors but occasionally are overwhelmed and need something to help relax them (say, before they get to the point of drowning the kids or shooting the husband).

The short-term meds, from a group called “benzodiazepines” such as Valium, Xanax, or Ativan, work quickly, they are good for relaxation or sleep, and generally make a person feel much better, at least for a few hours. The downside is: they work *too* well. These are narcotic drugs and can be highly addictive if used regularly. Those of us who remember the medicine of the ’60s and ’70s (yes, there are some of us *that* old to recall when Valium was used for a host of emotional disorders) remember people being prescribed Valium for three to four times daily...for months or years. The detox for those addicted to Valium or other similar medications is not unlike that of heroin. That is why the wiser providers use the short-term drugs with much caution, write prescriptions for relatively small quantities, and advise the patient to use the medicine *only* when needed. Different providers may have different ways of helping their patients cope with anxiety. There is not a black-and-white, wrong or right way to treat patients with anxiety disorders. There are many acceptable strategies, depending upon situational variables. However, if you find that your provider writes you endless prescriptions for Valium or Xanax and is not trying other strategies, then I would strongly suggest walking away and finding a provider who has your best long-term interests in mind.

So, we see that there are medically sound uses of the short-term medications in a variety of situations. But these medications must be judiciously and cautiously prescribed.

What about those folks suffering from long term anxiety disorders with symptoms that plague them daily? These are the group of people who suffer from *most* of the symptoms we discussed in Part 1. That takes us to the *long-term* medicines. These medications come from a general group with the tongue-tying name of “Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors” (Or...SSRI’s for short). The typical ones are commonly referred to by their brand names such as: Paxil, Prozac, Zoloft, Celexa, and Lexapro. These work by increasing the availability of serotonin as a neuro-transmitter (or messenger) in your brain, transmitting nerve signals between brain cells. Huh? There are a number of chemical transmitters that relay different things throughout your brain. Serotonin is really a hormone that works in different parts of the body. For our purposes, we’ll only discuss its very important function in the brain. Briefly, changes in levels of serotonin in your brain can affect your mood. Some people seem to simply not have enough of that mood enhancing chemical working between the brain cells. For others, who knows? There are undoubtedly a number of factors affecting the amount of serotonin circulating in your brain at any given time. But the bottom line is: serotonin tends to be a “feel good” chemical. The SSRI’s help

to keep serotonin in circulation resulting in feeling more normal, rather than anxious. This, of course, is a very simplistic description but it shall suffice for now.

Studies on serotonin first began in the late 1930’s. Medical science has improved its understanding of this chemical and some 40 years ago it was developed in Europe as an alternative to the anti-depressants of that time. The first widely used SSRI was Prozac. A subgroup of the SSRI’s is the Selective Serotonin and Norepinephrine Inhibitors (SSNRI’s). This group of meds allows for increased circulation of both serotonin and norepinephrine. For those of you who are suffering from “fatigue” as a major symptom, norepinephrine is a naturally occurring chemical which tends to combat fatigue and depression, a good choice for certain folks.

Now, for the bad news. Although SSRI’s work extremely well for those folks who need them, there are a number of potential problems when using these. I will list the problems and briefly explain each. Much more complete information can be found online, starting with a Google search of “SSRI”. My friends tell me I get too “wordy” when I write so I’m trying to give you enough information to decide if SSRI’s might be an option; then you may get more information from the Internet and from your provider.

Things to consider when starting an SSRI:

1. There are a number of potential side effects, some of which may be uncomfortable until your body adjusts to the increased levels of serotonin. Many providers will begin a patient on a regular adult dose. This almost guarantees a bad beginning. In general, I tend to use Paxil, having had the best overall results. I start my patients on 10mg every other day, then daily. Gradually, I work up to 20mg daily—this can take up to a month but greatly reduces the side effect potential.
2. When using an SSRI one must make a commitment to take it daily for at least 8-12 months. After that period, if one so chooses, we can gradually reduce the daily dose. I emphasize that this is not an addictive drug. One anecdotal observation: for most folks SSRI’s work so well that by three months they decide they are back to feeling fine and “why continue taking it when I don’t need it anymore?” They simply stop taking it. Since the medication is long acting, the higher levels of serotonin are maintained for about a week. Suddenly, the person dives into a deep depression. It has been found that after about 8-12 months permanent improvements are made and then it’s time to gradually wean off the medicine. About 80 percent of folks taking it do well and stay well. Going “cold turkey” prior to that time and one can slip back to where they had been prior to taking the med. This should all be carefully explained by your provider.
3. Sometimes a person feels no benefit from the medication. Or they have side effects even in small doses. Not to worry. There are a variety of available SSRI’s, usually one of which works well for an individual’s anxiety, depression, or panic attacks. New variations of SSRI’s are now available, with a lower side effect profile.
4. Weight gain: Some of these medications can cause a modest weight gain (average: 6#). You must weigh the risks of weight gain versus the benefits of the medication. Many patients find that a little weight gain is negligible compared to the increased quality of life they enjoy after taking the med for a month, or so.
5. Serotonin Syndrome: this is the name of a potentially serious grouping of symptoms that may occur if there is *too much* serotonin in the body. Rare as this is, it usually occurs when an SSRI is added to a patient’s other medications, one of which may cause a dramatic increase in overall levels of serotonin. Your provider or pharmacist should carefully review your other medications to ensure that such interactions do not occur. Always tell your provider ALL the medications you are taking, including over-the-counter and “herbal”.

SSRI’s provide an excellent option for those suffering from depression and/or anxiety, and who do not or cannot try non-pharmaceutical options. Certainly, it is not for everyone. Before I start some-

one on an SSRI, I find it prudent to evaluate their medical and social history to determine if this is the best option, and, if so, make every attempt to individualize a particular SSRI with my patient. Aside from the two major groups of medications I’ve discussed, there are a number of other meds more specific for people with severe depression, bi-polar disorder, and other “non-anxiety” problems. Your provider should assess for those possibilities but they are far more rare than anxiety or depression syndromes commonly seen in a family practice setting.

It’s not uncommon in certain situations to start an individual on both Xanax and Paxil, using the Xanax to provide relief until the Paxil kicks in (sometimes this can take up to 6 weeks).

Finally, I would like to emphasize that I am not suggesting that everyone with symptoms of anxiety or depression should use medication. However, over the last 4-5 years there has been a significant increase in stressors which most folks are experiencing, leading to a relatively large percentage of my patients having symptoms consistent with anxiety. Based on observations over the last year, I would conclude that the overall anxiety level in the CNMI has now become of epidemic proportion. It is also apparent that many of my patients are not aware of the various existing options that could help them cope with their symptoms. The prudent use of both short term and long term medications is an option more folks are considering as the deteriorating conditions in the CNMI ultimately cause more people to search for relief of their worsening symptoms of stress and anxiety.

I hope that Parts 1 and 2 of this article have been informative. If you think that you may be suffering from anxiety and/or depression, *don’t hold it in*. Discuss it openly with your provider and see if you can find a strategy that works for you, to improve your overall quality of life.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, not as individual medical advice. Readers should obtain their physician’s advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations.

Letter to the Editor

Questions begging for answers

Has anyone ever thought to do the math as to how much money is sent to the CNMI yearly and what the numbers are for every man, woman and child that is a legal U.S. citizen. It is a staggering amount. How long will it take for the citizens to finally demand a policy of truth? So much money is stolen and misdirected. When will the corruption ever stop? Are we not concerned at the state of our home? What is to be done?

I’m currently in California due to the lack of viable employment in the CNMI. We have failed. Saipan is broke. We cannot continue to support an alien workforce. How much is remitted yearly? How can we as Americans continue to subsidize all the contract workers? Is it not about time that we support our children by training them and then allowing them a chance at local employment?






When will the local government stop playing at government and actually govern? Is it time to sub-contract the duties and responsibilities of government? Disney Corporation is a multinational professional company. Let’s sell out to Disney and then maybe we can take pride in Mickey Mouse, instead of all the rats that are running Saipan now.

Brian R. Kendall
Papago, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Palau	Thundershowers	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Majuro	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 80

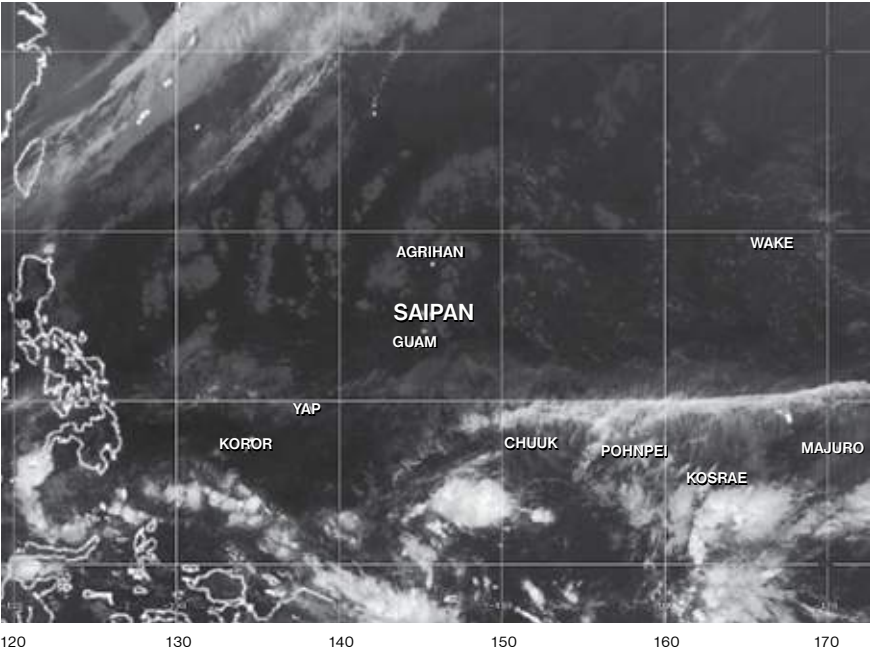
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 68 ▼ 58
Beijing	Showers	▲ 69 ▼ 48
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 74 ▼ 62
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲ 80 ▼ 68
London	Sunny	▲ 63 ▼ 38
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 74 ▼ 55
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 90 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲ 70 ▼ 60
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 79 ▼ 71
New York	Showers	▲ 54 ▼ 43
Osaka	Cloudy	▲ 63 ▼ 46
Paris	Sunny	▲ 63 ▼ 39
Pusan	Cloudy	▲ 60 ▼ 49
Rome	Showers	▲ 68 ▼ 49
Salem	Showers	▲ 66 ▼ 47
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 52
Seoul	Cloudy	▲ 59 ▼ 43
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 59 ▼ 47
Washington, DC	Windy	▲ 61 ▼ 46

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
3:25 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet	
8:30 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	
3:41 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet	
10:36 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends east-southeastward from 4N134E through a weak circulation centered southwest of Chuuk near 2N147E to end at EQ154E. Scattered showers are occurring near the trough axis south of Koror within 100 miles of a line from 4N130E to 4N134E to EQ138E and southwest and south of Chuuk to the south of a line from 1N142E to 5N148E to 2N155E. Converging winds east of the trough are coupling with upper-level divergence to create scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Pohnpei and Kosrae or south of a line from 2N155E to 6N157E to 2N171E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers over Tarawa and Butaritari atolls but south of Majuro between 2N and 5N from 171E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:02 AM	6:32 PM
Sunday	6:01 AM	6:32 PM
Monday	6:01 AM	6:32 PM
Tuesday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Wednesday	5:59 AM	6:32 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:40 AM	9:02 PM
Sunday	8:33 AM	10:01 PM
Monday	9:30 AM	10:58 PM
Tuesday	10:30 AM	11:53 PM
Wednesday	11:31 AM	

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 7, 2010

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM	GUAM-ROTA (ROP)
C09597 5:00am 5:30am 1, 5	C09598 6:30pm 7:00pm 4, 7
SAIPAN-GUAM	GUAM-SAIPAN
C09317 4:25am 5:15am Daily	C09316 2:45am 3:35am Daily
C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily	C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily
C09601 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7	C09600 10:05am 10:55am Daily
C09603 3:05pm 3:55pm Daily	C09602 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7
C09605 6:35pm 7:25pm Daily	C09604 5:10pm 6:00pm Daily
C09599 9:35pm 10:25pm Daily	C09606 8:10pm 9:00pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN
DL287 5:55am 8:35am Daily	DL290 10:00am 2:35pm Daily
DL297 3:35pm 6:15pm Daily	DL298 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
DL289 4:35pm 7:15pm Daily	DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN
OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 5	OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN
OZ604 2:20am 6:10am 1	OZ605 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7
OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	OZ603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN
FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN
CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6	CZ3007 7:30pm 2:40am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN
OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN	OZ704/605 12:10am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604/701 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	via ICN
OZ606/703 2:20am 11:00pm 1 via ICN	OZ706/607 3:35am 2:20am+1 4, 7 via PUS
OZ606/703 2:50am 11:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	C0890/9606 10:55am 9:00pm 6 via GUM
OZ608/705 3:20am 12:10am+1 1, 5 via PUS	OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN
C09317/891 4:25am 9:45am 6 via GUM	OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/893 3:05pm 9:10pm 3, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C09603/933 3:05pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM	C0892/9596 10:10pm 7:50am+1 3, 5 via GUM-Palau
	C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG	HONG KONG-SAIPAN
OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN	OZ724/605 12:30am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	via ICN
OZ606/749 3:30pm 11:00pm 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/605 1:00am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7
C09603/909 3:05am 9:30pm 1, 5 via GUM	via ICN
	OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN
	OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
	C0910/9596 10:35pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Schedule of Religious Services																										
CATHOLIC																										
Mt. Carmel Cathedral Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm																										
Korean Center Sunday: 10:30am Wednesday: 10am Thursday-Friday: 8pm Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm																										
Kristo Rai Parish Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am Monday- Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6am and 6pm Saturday: 6am and 6pm																										
Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish Wednesday Mass: 6pm First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm Saturday Mass: 6pm Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am																										
Saint Jude Parish Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm																										
San Antonio Parish Sunday: 6am and 8am Tuesday and Friday: 6pm																										
San Francisco de Borja-Rota Sunday: 6am and 8am Monday-Saturday: 6am Wednesday: 6pm																										
San Isidro-Rota Sunday: 5am and 10am Monday-Wednesday: 7pm Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm																										
San Jose (Oleai) Parish Sunday: 6am and 7:30am Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm																										
San Roque Parish Sunday: 9am Wednesday: 6pm Saturday: 10:30am																										
San Vicente Parish Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm Monday-Saturday: 6pm																										
Santa Remedios Sunday: 7:30am Tuesday: 6pm Saturday: 10am-Baptism																										
Santa Soledad Sunday: 7:30am																										
PROTESTANT																										
Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am Sunday School for Children: 10-11am Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm																										
Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan Sunday School: 9am Sunday Morning Worship: 10am Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm																										
Chinese Christian Church of Saipan Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm																										
Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan Worship/Study Opportunities Adult Sunday School: 9am Youth Sunday School: 9am English Worship Service Sunday: 10am Sunday Service: 5:30pm Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm; Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm Mid-week Service: 7:30pm Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm																										
Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan St. Paul's Episcopal Church Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau, Call 235-0545 for directions																										
Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan Worship Service: 9am GBI Classes: 4-6pm Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am Sunday: 7am Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm																										
Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English) Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog) Sunday: 6:45am (English) Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)																										
Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville Sunday Services 9:00 AM Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158 Pastor JJ Matsumoto																										
Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation) Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal 8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)																										
9:15am-Sunday School Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church) Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)																										
Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan English Service: 9-11am, Sunday Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday																										
Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan Sunday School: 8:20am Sunday Adult: 10am Sunday Adult: 11:30am Sunday Evening: 7:30pm Wednesday: 8pm																										
Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan Sunday Worship Service: 10am-12noon Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)																										
Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan English Worship Service: 9-10:30am Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm English Sunday School: 11am-12pm Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: English, 7pm-8pm Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm																										
Missions Connection Ministry Every Sunday Celebrations: 10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog) Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm Youth Impact Friday: 7pm Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm																										
Northern Marianas Christian Church Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided) Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620																										
Saipan Bible Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30-10am Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm																										
Saipan Christian Church Sunday: 7:30am-10am Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting) Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)																										
Saipan Church of Christ Sunday Bible Class: 9am Sunday Worship: 10am Sunday Worship English: 6pm Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm																										
Saipan Community Church (Sunday Services) Palau Service: 7:30am-9am English Service: 10am-11:30am Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm																										
Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan (Saturday Church Services) Sabbath School Program: 9-10am Lesson Study: 10-10:40am Divine Service: 11-12pm Visitation: 3-4pm Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm Sundown Worship: 6-7pm																										
First Baptist Church (Formerly Saipan Baptist Church) Aletna St., San Antonio Sunday <table><tr><td></td><td>9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>10am</td><td>Regular worship</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>6pm</td><td>worship</td></tr><tr><td>Wednesday</td><td>7pm</td><td>worship</td></tr></table> Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. McLure at 234-1939/235-7779.				9am	Sunday school		10am	Regular worship		6pm	worship	Wednesday	7pm	worship												
	9am	Sunday school																								
	10am	Regular worship																								
	6pm	worship																								
Wednesday	7pm	worship																								
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center Phone 234-0209 New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches. Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi Service Times Sunday 10:00am Worship Service Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service Saturday 10:00am Evangelism																										
Upper Room International Ministries Sunday 5:30 a.m-6:30 a.m Morning prayer <table><tr><td></td><td>7am-9am</td><td>English service</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>7am-9am</td><td>Sunday school</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>10am-12noon</td><td>English service,</td></tr><tr><td>Koblerville</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Wednesday</td><td>7pm-9pm</td><td>Prayer meeting</td></tr><tr><td>Saturday</td><td>7pm-9pm</td><td>Tagalog service</td></tr><tr><td>Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Gualo Rai, Saipan</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church Sunday School: 9:30am Sunday AM Worship: 10:30am Sunday PM Worship: 7:00am Wed Worship: 7:30pm Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S				7am-9am	English service		7am-9am	Sunday school		10am-12noon	English service,	Koblerville			Wednesday	7pm-9pm	Prayer meeting	Saturday	7pm-9pm	Tagalog service	Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church			Gualo Rai, Saipan		
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Gualo Rai, Saipan																										

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 17, 2000

Takeover of Outer Cove Marina depends on probe outcome

A planned oversight hearing on the controversy surrounding the Outer Cove Marina will uncover possible wrongdoing in the construction as well as operations of the berthing area, according to Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes. The senator earlier has asked Rep. Bobby Guerrero, chair of the House Commerce and Tourism Committee, to conduct the joint investigation into the dispute between boat owners and Marine Revitalization Corp., operator of the marina. Mr. Reyes stressed this hearing will seek a final resolution to the problems which have already affected commercial operations, particularly tour operators using Outer Cove, for the last 18 months.

CDA eyes stricter regs in loan approval

The Commonwealth Development Authority may have to require borrowers to undergo loan counseling soon if only to make sure they will not remiss on their monthly payment obligations once their credit applications are approved. CDA Board Chair John S. Tenorio said completion of a series of loan counseling sessions is one of the new requirements being looked at by the government's lending arm in its efforts to address problems on swelling delinquency rate. Mr. Tenorio said the move may also be taken to untangle numerous loan applications now pending before the development authority because of the ever growing demand for fresh money by the business sector due to economic slowdown.

April 17, 2001

CNMI lacks fire protection facilities

The Department of Public Safety is asking the Legislature to approve its proposed Fiscal Year 2002 appropriations of \$14.6 million to expedite major improvements in several police programs. DPS Commissioner Charlie S. Ingram disclosed that one of the critical areas that need serious consideration is the Firefighting division which lacks equipment and other materials to aid them during fire incidents. He said there is a need also to set up fire hydrants in several areas on Saipan where firemen can hook up and prevent fire from spreading to adjacent areas and residential houses.

CHC hires new obstetrician, infectious disease specialist

The Commonwealth Health Center recently hired and signed a long-term contract with Dr. Stewart Pollock to provide full-time Obstetrical and Gynecological services in the Commonwealth. Dr. Pollock is the hospital's third full-time OB/GYN specialist. Dr. Pollock received his Royal College Certification in Canada in 1984, although he originally trained in Glasgow Victoria Hospital, Scotland, UK. Dr. Emma Montanez also recently arrived in the Commonwealth and joined CHC's Internal Medicine Department as an Infectious Disease specialist.

April 17, 2002

'PMC-GHLI standoff is No.1 priority'

Calling it the biggest issue facing him, newly hired Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund Administrator Karl T. Reyes yesterday said he plans to immediately address the standoff between the local health providers and Group Health and Life Insurance program, which the Fund administers. "It is necessary to address this at once because it involves the welfare of the members of the plan. Local health providers are very important to our community and there are maybe as many as 5,000 government workers who could be placed at a disadvantage if this thing is not resolved," he said. Reyes stressed, however, that there are industry standards and rates that the local providers have to follow "and this is where the differences come in."

'Happy Children in Paradise' launched

The Marianas Visitors Authority yesterday disclosed that the Babauta Administration has vowed to infuse additional funds into the agency's promotional activities geared toward the family market. In line with this, the MVA announced the introduction of the annual locally based promotional campaigns, including the Happy Children in Paradise program, which hopes to revive the Commonwealth's tourism industry. With the support of tourist-related businesses on the island such as the Pacific Development Inc., the MVA has launched a locally based promotional program that will start in June 2002 and will run until September 2002.

Business

Obama signs \$18B jobless benefits bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—Just hours after Congress passed an \$18 billion bill to restore unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed, President Barack Obama made it the law of the land.

The measure comes as welcome relief to hundreds of thousands of people who lost out on the additional weeks of compensation after exhausting their state-paid benefits. They now will be able to reapply for long-term unemployment benefits and receive those checks retroactively under the legislation.

The bill also restores full Medicare payments to doctors who were threatened by a 21 percent cut and refloats the flood insurance program.

Obama signed the bill when he returned to the White House on Thursday night from fundraisers in Miami and a speech earlier in the day at Cape Canaveral, presidential spokesman Bill Burton said.

Obama thanked Congress for passing the temporary extension, saying it was critical to help struggling families make ends meet.

"Millions of Americans who lost their jobs in this economic crisis depend on unemployment and health insurance benefits to get by as they look for work and get themselves back on their feet," Obama said in a statement. "But as I requested in my budget, I urge Congress to move quickly to extend these benefits through the end of this year."

The legislation cleared both houses of Congress on Thursday night. The House passed the bill 289-112 just two hours after it emerged from the Senate on a 59-38 vote that capped an unusually partisan debate. Republicans largely chose to take a stand against the legislation for adding to the \$12.8 trillion national despite backing it by wide margins in December and again recently.

"It increases the deficit by \$18 billion, a cost to be paid for by future generations," said Rep. Jerry Moran, R-Kan. "This legislation is yet another unfortunate example of business as usual in our nation's capital."

Several other popular programs had also expired, including federal flood insurance, higher Medicare payment rates for doctors and generous health insurance subsidies for people who have lost their jobs.

BoG announces new Santa Cruz and Palau managers



HAGATNA, Guam—Bank of Guam has announced the promotion of Katherine Roberto Lujan and Matthew C. Cruz to branch managers of the company's Santa Cruz and Palau branches, respectively.

As well as the post of Santa Cruz branch manager, Lujan was also appointed the bank's assistant vice president.

She joined the Bank in 2005 as a management trainee and just returned from a two-year assignment managing the Bank of Guam's Palau branch. Lujan has also worked as an operations and compliance officer.

An alumnus of George Washington High School, Lujan is a graduate of the University of Guam, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English, minor in Sociology.

Prior to her return to Guam, Lujan served the Palauan community as the vice chair of the Palau Chamber of Commerce Banking Committee, a member



Lujan



Cruz

of the Rotary Club of Palau, and the Palau Red Cross.

Cruz, for his part, also assumed the position of bank vice president along with his managerial responsibilities at BoG Palau.

He was previously BoG's vice president/business development manager and joined the bank in 2005 as assistant vice president/marketing officer.

Cruz is a graduate of Eastern Washington University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration/Marketing. Before he left Guam, Cruz was chairman of the board for the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities, a member of the Rotary Club of Tumon Bay, The Chamorro Artists Association, and a 4th Degree Knight with the Santa Teresita Parish Knight of Columbus.

Cruz has recently become a member of the Rotary Club of Palau and the Palau Chamber of Commerce, and is the president of the Palau Bankers Association.

For more information, please contact Jackie Marati at 472-5258. **(BoG)**

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Volcanic cloud casts long shadow over US travel

CHICAGO (AP)—A volcanic ash cloud that shut down airports and tied up air traffic across Europe could turn into a long, costly headache for businesses, airlines and tourists in the United States. The ash spewed by an eruption in Iceland forced airlines to cancel flights and redirect planes around the ash. Those diversions caused jetliners to burn more fuel and created delays in the air-cargo business that could quickly run into tens of millions of dollars. The slowdown could affect everything from package shipments to business meetings and long-planned vacations. “The costs could be extraordinary,” said Jeffrey Price, an aviation professor at Metropolitan State College of Denver.

Wis. man charged with killing 4 relatives in Ill.

CHICAGO (AP)—A Wisconsin man was charged Thursday with killing his pregnant wife, infant son and two nieces in a shooting spree at a Chicago home that also left his mother and nephew wounded, authorities said. James Larry, 32, of Madison, Wis., was charged with four counts of first-degree murder, four counts of attempted first-degree murder and two counts of intentional homicide of an unborn child. Officials said both his wife and teenage niece were pregnant. Larry told police following his arrest early Wednesday that he heard voices encouraging him to kill his family and was sorry he had run out of bullets, a person close to the investigation told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the investigation.

Immigration agents raid AZ van shuttle businesses

PHOENIX (AP)—Federal agents arrested nearly 50 shuttle operators and smugglers Thursday accused of using vans to transport thousands of illegal immigrants from the Mexican border to Phoenix in what was billed as one of the government’s largest-ever human smuggling busts. Investigators said the operators of four shuttle services in Tucson and a fifth in Phoenix created their businesses solely to help immigrant smugglers move their customers to Phoenix under a veil of legitimacy. The shuttle operators are accused of giving illegal immigrants fraudulent receipts to make the trips look legitimate and coaching them on what to say if the vans were pulled over by police. “They are in knee-deep. They know exactly what’s going on,” said John Morton, assistant secretary of Homeland Security for U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement.

On to Mars: Obama declares, ‘I expect to see it’

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—President Barack Obama boldly predicted Thursday his new plans for space exploration would lead American astronauts on historic, almost fantastic journeys to an asteroid and then to Mars—and in his lifetime—relying on rockets and propulsion still to be imagined and built.

“I expect to be around to see it,” he said of pioneering U.S. trips starting with a landing on an asteroid—a colossal feat in itself—before the long-dreamed-of expedition to Mars. He spoke near the historic Kennedy Space Center launch pads that sent the first men to the moon, a blunt rejoinder to critics, including several former astronauts, who contend his planned changes will instead deal a staggering blow to the nation’s manned space program.

“We want to leap into the future,” not continue on the same path as before, Obama said as he sought to reassure NASA workers that America’s space adventures would soar on despite the impending termination of space shuttle flights.

His prediction was reminiscent of President John F. Kennedy’s declaration in 1961, “I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to Earth.” That goal was fulfilled in 1969.

Obama did not predict a Mars landing soon. But he said that



President Barack Obama delivers remarks at the Kennedy Space Center, Fla., Thursday, April 15, 2010.

by 2025, the nation would have a new spacecraft “designed for long journeys to allow us to begin the first-ever crewed missions beyond the moon into deep space.”

“We’ll start by sending astronauts to an asteroid for the first

time in history,” he said. “By the mid-2030s, I believe we can send humans to orbit Mars and return them safely to Earth. And a landing on Mars will follow. And I expect to be around to see it.”

The biggest criticisms of Obama’s plans have been that

they have lacked details and goals. Thursday’s speech was an attempt to answer, especially since an asteroid is the next step away from Earth’s reach.

Asteroids zip by Earth fairly often and have occasionally smacked the planet with disastrous results. For example, asteroids have been blamed for the extinction of the dinosaurs.

Landing on an asteroid would give scientists a better idea of how to handle a future killer asteroid that could wipe out much of life on Earth. Also, it would be a feat sure to win great attention—and there is far less gravity than the moon, meaning it would be easier and cheaper to leave.

“I think he said all the right things” in declaring a commitment to space exploration, said George Washington University space scholar John Logsdon, who has served on several NASA advisory boards. “I don’t know what more you could have asked for.”

Future of NASA

President Barack Obama’s revamped space policy will use \$6 billion in new funding over five years to create 2,500 new jobs with the ultimate goal of going to Mars.

Highlights of new plan

- Begin working on a new heavy lift rocket; will decide in 2015 on the specific rocket that will take astronauts deeper into space
- Increase number of astronaut days in space by 3,500 over the next decade; extends life of International Space Station (ISS) beyond 2020
- Develop the Orion crew capsule to provide stand-by emergency escape capabilities for the ISS
- Explore new commercial space transportation industry that will provide crew and cargo to the ISS; expected to create 10,000 jobs over the next five years
- Research new technologies, including robotic missions, to reduce cost and increase safety for future exploration beyond low-Earth orbit

© 2010 MCT
Source: NASA, The White House
Graphic: Melina Yingling

But several Republicans, including Sen. David Vitter of Louisiana and Rep. Rob Bishop of Utah, assailed Obama’s plan and speech, calling his plans “job-killing.”

Tea party rally upbraids ‘gangster government’

WASHINGTON (AP)—Tea party protesters marked tax day Thursday with exhortations against “gangster government” and appeals from Republicans seeking their grass-roots clout in November elections, a prospect both tempting and troubling to those in the loose movement.

Several thousand rallied in Washington’s Freedom Plaza in the shadow of the Ronald Reagan office building, capping a national protest tour launched in the dust of Nevada and finishing in the capital that inspires tea party discontent like no other place. Allied activists demonstrated from Maine to Hawaii in hundreds of lively protests, all joined in disdain for government spending and - on the April 15 federal tax filing deadline—what they see as the Washington tax grab.

The Washington rally in brilliant sunshine was spirited but modest in size, lacking the star power of tea party favorite Sarah Palin, who roused the masses at earlier stops of the Tea Party Express in its cross-country bus tour. Republican Rep. Michele Bachmann of Minnesota won roars of affirmation as she ac-

cused President Barack Obama and congressional Democrats of trying to take over health care, energy, financial services and other broad swaths of the economy.

“We’re on to this gangster government,” she declared. “I say it’s time for these little piggy banks to go home.”

She appealed directly for tea partiers to swing behind “constitutional conservatives” in congressional campaigns, just as they contributed to Scott Brown’s upset in the Massachusetts Senate race in an early test of their potency. “I am the No. 1 target for one more extremist group to defeat this November,” she said. “We need to have your help for candidates like me. We need you to take out some of these bad guys.”

Obama, speaking Thursday night at a Democratic fundraiser in Miami, told supporters he is amused by the protesters’ complaints about taxes because, contrary to their claims, he’s cut taxes. “You would think they’d be saying thank you,” the president said.

Obama: Gay partners should have hospital access

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hospitals that accept Medicare and Medicaid payments must let patients choose which persons, including gay and lesbian partners, can visit them and help make critical health decisions, President Barack Obama said Thursday.

Gay rights advocates hailed the move as a major step toward fairness for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans.

“This is a critical step in ending discrimination against LGBT families and ensuring that, in the event of a hospital stay, all Amer-

icans have the right to see their loved ones,” said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

With no fanfare, the White House on Thursday night released a statement by Obama instructing the Health and Human Services Department to draft rules requiring federally subsidized hospitals to grant all patients the right to designate people who can visit and consult with them at crucial moments.

The designated visitors should have the same rights that immediate family members now enjoy, Obama’s instructions said. It said

Medicare-Medicaid hospitals, which include most of the nation’s facilities, may not deny visitation and consultation privileges on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

The new rules, Obama said, should “guarantee that all patients’ advance directives, such as durable powers of attorney and health care proxies, are respected,” and that patients’ designees be able to “make informed decisions regarding patients’ care.”

E-mail: Ex-CIA chief agreed with tape destruction

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former CIA Director Porter Goss agreed with a 2005 decision to destroy interrogation videos showing waterboarding, but nobody told White House counsel Harriet Miers, who was “livid” to find out afterward, according to internal CIA e-mails released Thursday.

The documents show that, despite Goss’ apparent agreement, officials almost immediately began worrying they’d done something improper, foreshadowing a controversy that has lingered for years and remains under FBI investigation.

The videos showed CIA interrogators using waterboard-

ing, a simulated drowning technique, on terrorism suspect Abu Zubaydah. The videos showed that interrogators did not follow the waterboarding procedures authorized by President George W. Bush’s administration, the documents show.

Jose Rodriguez, the agency’s top clandestine officer, worried the 92 tapes would be “devastating” to the CIA if they ever surfaced, the documents show. Rodriguez approved the destruction of the tapes.

Rodriguez told Goss and others he “felt it was extremely important to destroy the tapes and that if there was any heat,

he would take it,” according to a November 2005 e-mail. Goss laughed, according to the e-mail, and said he’d be the one to take the heat.

The e-mail then states: “PG, however, agreed with the decision.”

The author’s name is blacked out. The e-mail amounts to an after-the-fact summary and does not prove that Goss approved destroying the tapes. Current and former intelligence officials have said he did not, and was angry to find out about it. Rodriguez’s lawyer has disputed that. Goss has not discussed the matter publicly.

Asia

Thai protester in dramatic escape to avoid police

BANGKOK (AP)—An anti-government protest leader evaded arrest Friday by scaling down a hotel facade with a rope and ducking into a getaway car while his supporters took two police officers hostage in a theatrical twist to Thailand's political crisis.

Arisman Pongruangrongs escape at a hotel in downtown Bangkok where police had converged to arrest holed-up protest leaders was a major embarrassment for the government.

Authorities have tried without success to end a monthlong sit-in by tens of thousands of "Red Shirt" protesters in some of Bangkok most popular shopping and tourist districts.

At least 24 people were killed last week when troops tried to clear one group of protesters.

Friday's failed crackdown signaled the government was willing to risk another confrontation with the Red Shirts, who are campaigning to oust Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, dissolve Parliament and hold new elections.

Less than 30 minutes before the hotel drama,

Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban had announced on national television that a unit of special forces had encircled the SC Park Hotel in downtown Bangkok where Arisman and other "Red Shirt" protests leaders were staying.

With a rope looped around his waist, Arisman slid down from a third-story ledge of the hotel into a waiting crowd of cheering Red Shirt supporters who led him to a car.

Arisman, a pop singer-turned-activist, then returned and clambered on top of a van to give a short speech, to announce that the Red Shirts had taken two police-man hostage to ensure his safety.

"I would like to thank all of the people who saved me—you have helped save democracy," said Arisman, a one-time crooner of love songs and a Thai heartthrob.

A spokesman from national police headquarters confirmed that a police colonel and a police major general were being held by Arisman's supporters.



Anti-government leader Arisman Pongruangrongs, in red, is helped by others as he flees arrest Friday, April 16, 2010, at a downtown Bangkok, Thailand, hotel.

China quake survivors sleep in cold outdoors

JIEGU, China (AP)—Rescuers probed the rubble for sounds or movement Friday in a rush to find anyone buried alive more than 48 hours after an earthquake hit western China, killing at least 760 people. Many survivors shivered through a second night outdoors as they waited for tents to arrive in the remote, mountainous Tibetan corner.

People with broken arms or legs cried in pain as medical

teams could offer little more than injections. A doctor at the Qinghai provincial hospital, where the severely injured were being flown, said she had no idea how many were being treated because there was no time to count them all.

Stunned survivors wandered the dusty streets of Jiegu, where relief workers estimated 70 percent to 90 percent of the low-slung town of wood-and-mud housing had collapsed.

Hundreds gathered to sleep in a plaza around a 50-foot (15-meter) tall statue of the mythical Tibetan King Gesar, wrapped in blankets taken from homes shattered by Wednesday morning's quakes.

"There's nothing to eat. We've just been drinking water," said Zhaxi Zuoma, a 32-year-old camped with thousands of others on a rocky field. They asked a reporter to bring them food the next day.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistan: New probe likely after UN Bhutto report

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A new U.N. report that blames Pakistan's security establishment for failing to stop the assassination of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto paves the way for a "proper police investigation" into her killing, an aide to her widower - now the country's president—said Friday. Bhutto was killed in a Dec. 27, 2007, gun and suicide-bomb attack as she was leaving a rally in the garrison town of Rawalpindi, where she was campaigning to return her Pakistan People's Party to power in parliamentary elections. There had previously been an attempt on her life when she returned to Pakistan 10 weeks earlier after 8 1/2 years in self-imposed exile.

SKorea says external explosion likely sank ship

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—An external explosion most likely sank a South Korean navy ship that split apart three weeks ago, an investigator said Friday, amid concerns about possible North Korea involvement in the disaster. The 1,200-ton Cheonan split into two pieces after exploding March 26 during a routine patrol near

the tense maritime border with North Korea. Fifty-eight crew members were rescued, but 46 were missing for weeks. There has been some suspicion but no confirmation of North Korean involvement in the sinking. The disputed western sea border has in the past been the scene of three bloody inter-Korean naval battles.

Police: Bomber kills 7 at SW Pakistan hospital

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—A suicide bomber attacked a hospital emergency room where Shiite Muslims had gathered Friday to mourn a slain bank manager, killing at least seven people including a journalist in Pakistan's main southwest city, police said. The explosion in Quetta underscored the poor security conditions in Pakistan, a U.S. ally where sectarian violence remains a problem even as al-Qaida and Taliban militants pose a growing—and linked—threat. It wasn't the first time that Shiite mourners have been attacked at hospitals in Pakistan, evidence of a tactic in vogue for their Sunni extremist foes. Gunshots rang out after the explosion at the Civil Hospital, and rescuers carried away the dead and wounded, TV footage showed.

World

Pope breaks silence on abuse, urges repentance

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI broke his recent silence on the clerical abuse scandal Thursday, complaining that the church was under attack but saying that "we Christians" must repent for sins and recognize mistakes.

The main U.S. victims group immediately dismissed his comments, saying they are meaningless unless Benedict takes concrete steps to safeguard children from pedophile priests.

Benedict made the remarks during an off-the-cuff homily at a Mass inside the Vatican for members of the Pontifical Biblical Commission.

"I must say, we Christians, even in recent times, have of-

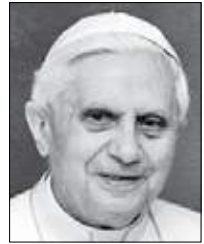
ten avoided the word 'repent', which seemed too tough. But now under attack from the world, which has been telling us about our sins ... we realize that it's necessary to repent, in other words, recognize what is wrong in our lives," Benedict said.

"Open ourselves to forgiveness ... and let ourselves be transformed. The pain of repentance, which is a purification and transformation, is a grace because it is renewal and the work of divine mercy," he said.

Victims of clerical abuse have long demanded that Benedict take more personal responsibility for clerical abuse, charging that the Vatican orchestrated a culture of cover-up and secrecy that allowed priests to rape and molest children unchecked for decades.

Those demands have intensified in recent weeks as the Vatican and Benedict himself have been accused of negligence in handling some cases in Europe and the United States.

"Factual disclosures are not 'attacks' and 'penance' protects no one," said Mark Serrano, a spokesman for the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, the U.S. group.



Benedict XVI

Iceland's volcanic ash halts flights across Europe

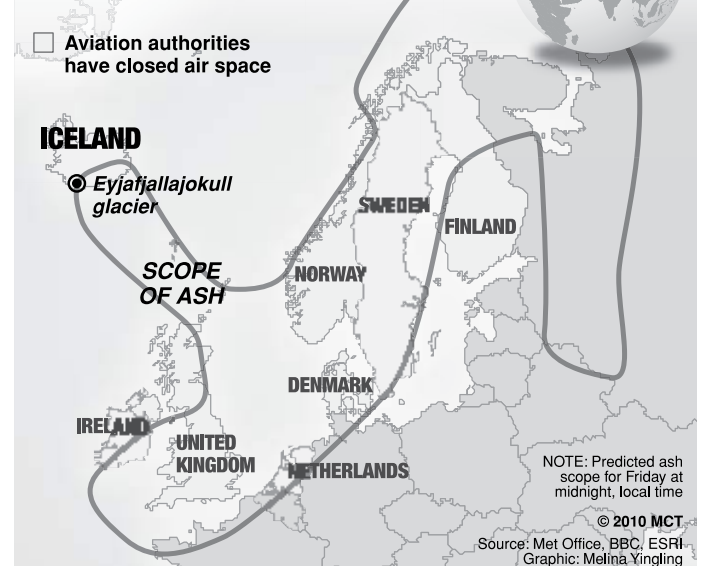
LONDON (AP)—An enormous ash cloud from a remote Icelandic volcano caused the biggest flight disruption since the 2001 terrorist attacks Thursday as it drifted over northern Europe and stranded travelers on six continents. Officials said it could take days for the skies to become safe again in one of aviation's most congested areas.

The cloud, floating miles (kilometers) above Earth and capable of knocking out jet engines, wrecked travel plans for tens of thousands of people, from tourists and business travelers to politicians and royals. They couldn't see the source of their frustration—except indirectly, when the ash created vivid red and lavender sunsets.

Non-emergency flights in Britain were canceled, and most will stay grounded until at least midday Friday. Authorities in Ireland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Belgium also closed their air space. France shut down 24 airports, including the main hub of Charles de Gaulle in Paris, Germany's Ber-

Iceland volcano

The ash cloud from a volcano erupting under the Eyjafjallajökull glacier is disrupting flights across northern Europe.



lin and Hamburg were shut Thursday evening, and several flights out of the U.S. had to double back.

Kyla Evans, spokeswoman for air traffic service Eurocontrol, said half of all trans-Atlantic flights were expected to be canceled Friday.

At London's Heathrow airport, normally one of the world's busiest with more than 1,200 flights and 180,000 travelers a day, passengers stared forlornly at departure boards on which every flight was listed as canceled.

WORLD BRIEFS

Russia suspends all adoptions to US families

MOSCOW (AP)—A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Thursday that adoptions of Russian children by U.S. families had been suspended, although other Russian and U.S. officials disputed this. Spokesman Andrei Nesterenko said during a briefing that new adoptions by Americans are on hold pending a visit in the next few days by a U.S. delegation to reach an accord on future placement of Russian children. The U.S. hopes to resolve a bitter dispute that broke out last week, when an American woman sent her 7-year-old adopted son back to Russia on a plane by himself. "Further adoptions of Russian children by American citizens which are currently suspended will be possible only if such a deal is reached," Nesterenko said in a televised briefing.

Lawyer: Charges dropped against 9 missionaries

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—A lawyer says Haiti has dropped kidnapping charges against nine of the 10 U.S. missionaries who were arrested trying to take a busload of children out of the quake-ravaged country. The group's leader, Laura Silsby of Boise, Idaho, remains jailed in Haiti. The other nine were let go in February and

early March and allowed to leave the country. Caleb Stegall, an attorney for three of them, told The Associated Press on Thursday that a senior State Department official informed him of the dropped charges. The Baptist missionaries were halted Jan. 30 trying to take 33 children to an orphanage they were setting up in the Dominican Republic.

Zambia hit by worst cholera outbreak in years

LUSAKA, Zambia (AP)—Health workers in Zambia say they are battling the worst cholera outbreak in years. The waterborne disease has killed more than 130 people and sickened close to 5,000 others in the southern African country since March. Luke Arend, head of the Lusaka office of aid group Medecins Sans Frontiers, says that's the highest number of cases in a decade. Health ministry spokesman Dr. Reuben Mbebe said Thursday the outbreak was due to flooding in Lusaka, the capital, after torrential rains. Shallow wells that are a main source of domestic water have become contaminated by overflow from pit latrines. The government and aid group have set up special treatment centers. The government has banned gatherings such as weddings and wakes to try to control the spread.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, April 17, 2010

Many OFW voters in NMI seen to turn in ballots this weekend

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Philippine Consulate General expects many Filipino absentee voters to visit its offices this weekend, either to turn in their accomplished ballots or to pick up ballots for this year's overseas absentee voting for registered Filipino voters in the CNMI.

Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig told Saipan Tribune yesterday that as of Thursday night, 154 ballots have already been submitted and over 600 voters dropped by to get their ballots.

"We received a lot of calls. So we expect that the number will pick up on the weekend," Macaraig said.

The Philippine Consulate General will be open daily until May 10, from 8am to 4pm, to accommodate more voters. There are 7,169 registered Filipino voters in the CNMI but the actual

number may be much lower due to the many workers who have already left the CNMI.

Macaraig said he has no information yet as to how many ballots have been placed in the boxes labeled "invalid" and "questionable."

He said they have also begun receiving ballots through the mail, but he does not know whether those are from Tinian or Rota. Consular staff picks up the ballots being sent through mail at the postal office every morning and before 4pm.

Thirty-six voters on Saipan turned in their ballots to the Consulate last Saturday, April 10, the first day of the overseas absentee voting.

The conduct of elections in the Commonwealth has so far been smooth and orderly. The election is being done a month ahead of the actual election in the Philippines, which is set on May 10, 2010. Under the Overseas Absentee Voting law, registered Filipino absentee vot-



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Voters Dina Arcos, left, and Nelsie Lasaga look for their names on the lists of registered absentee voters posted outside the Philippine Consul General's office in Susupe last Saturday, April 10, the first day of the 2010 overseas absentee voting for registered Filipino workers in the CNMI.

ers will vote for president, vice president, senator, and partylist.

The chairman of the Special Ballot Reception and Custody

Group in the CNMI is Romeo Garchitorena. The members are Violaflor Enerlan-Ancheta and Lauren Arce.

During the daily segregation of votes, the SBRCG invites voters to serve as witnesses.

Included in the ballots are

AS OF THURSDAY:

- 154 ballots turned in
- Over 600 picked up ballots

names of candidates for 10 candidates for president, eight candidates for vice president, 61 candidates for senator, and 187 party lists.

Voters are allowed until May 10 at 8pm to submit their ballots to the Philippine Consulate General, located on the 5th floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

Voters, particularly those on Tinian and Rota, have the options to send their ballots by mail to the Philippine Consulate General at P.O. Box 500731 Chalan Kanoa, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950 CNMI, USA.

Absentee voters who cannot personally pick up their ballots may call the Consulate at 234-1848 to make arrangements on the method of claiming their ballots.

The counting of votes will be held at the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza on May 10 at 8pm.

The results of the overseas absentee voting will be brought by the chairman of the Special Board of Canvassers to the Philippine Senate and the Commission on Election in Manila.

Comelec: 16,000 overseas Filipinos cast ballots in first 4 days of absentee voting

By **ANNA VALMERO**
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—At least 16,000 Filipinos overseas participated in the country's first automated elections, which will be held here on May 10 and the Commission on Elections said it was "satisfied" with the turnout.

"We at Comelec are satisfied because we have 16,000 OAVs who voted as of 3:47a.m. today [Wednesday]. That is a nice start for our overseas absentee voting," said Commissioner Armando Velasco, who heads the committee on OAV.

The breakdown of the absentee voters who trooped to the polls from April 10 to 13 is as follows: 7,258 for Asia-Pacific; 2,891 for Europe; 2,902 for America; and 3,828 for Middle East.

Velasco is optimistic of an 80 percent turnout in Hong Kong and Singapore, which have 95,355 and 31,851 OFWs respectively.

Velasco said they were seeing an "overall turnout of 60 percent of [the] total 568,000 absentee voters."

Of the total, 140,832 Filipinos in 47 countries will vote by mail. They were sent official ballots and other election paraphernalia



(AP PHOTO/KIN CHEUNG)

A Philippine overseas absentee voter casts her ballot in the new automated election machine at a polling station in Hong Kong Sunday, April 11, 2010. Filipinos abroad started voting on Saturday for the country's next president, a monthlong period that leads up to the national balloting. The Philippine embassies and consulates in Hong Kong and Singapore will use automatic counting machines, which will be deployed nationwide for the first time in a general election.

in mailing packets, which should be filled up by the voter upon receipt and returned to the post of the country where they would be canvassed, said Velasco.

For the rest who would cast their votes in person, they must

present a valid passport or identification with name, signature, and photograph to the special board of election inspectors (SBEIs).

In the absence of IDs, a voter will be asked to take an oath on his identity in the presence of an

SBEI member. If a voter fails to prove his identity, he will not be allowed to vote.

Under the Overseas Absentee Voting law, OAVs will vote for president, vice president, senator, and partylist.

Global Filipinos to send election observers

Global Filipino Nation (GFN), an international organization of global Filipino leaders and organizations, is sending 2010 International Election Observers from different countries, including the United States, Australia, and South Korea. The International Observers are dual citizens, i.e., foreign citizens who are also Filipino citizens.

Global Filipinos Australia, which is an integral part of the GFN "family," has made a special collaborative arrangement on the role of the Australian Embassy. According to Lolita Farmer, GFA chair, a number of Australian Embassy staff will be deployed as election observers.

In a March 31, 2010 letter to GFA, Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Rod Smith underscored the fact that "the deployment of accredited foreign observers can

be an important complement to the efforts domestic poll watchers, the Commission on Elections, and ordinary Filipino citizens who are working to achieve transparent, orderly and fair elections in May... I applaud the commitment of Global Filipinos Australia in joining this effort to support honest and clean elections."

The privileges and reportorial responsibility of the International Election Observers under Comelec Resolution 8763 are: (1) conduct reviews, interviews, observations, inspections of the entire election process before, during and after elections; and (2) submit a copy of their Observation Report.

An International Election Observer cannot engage in local partisan politics or contribute to any candidate. That would violate the Omnibus Election Code. (PR)

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Philippine election results in 3 days of May vote

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The results of the Philippines' first automated presidential poll will be known within three days of next month's poll, a spokesman for the elections commission said Thursday, after business groups said they feared the new system would fail.

The Philippines has brought in the nationwide automated

system to replace the laborious manual system that took weeks to tabulate results, but influential business groups have called for a manual count as a backup.

In a statement Wednesday, the Management Association of the Philippines urged the elections commission to adopt a parallel nationwide manual

count for the president and vice president to "mitigate, if not eliminate, the skepticism of many about the credibility of the automated election system and the results that it will deliver."

The Commission on Elections is prepared to shift to a manual count if ballot-counting machines fail to function in up to

30 percent of more than 76,300 precincts nationwide during the May 10 polls, said spokesman James Jimenez.

A failure to elect a successor to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo by the time she is supposed to step down on June 30 is "almost inconceivable," he said.

"We are looking at two to

three days for the release of the national data ... but as far as the proclamation of president and vice president (is concerned), you have to wait for congress," Jimenez told a forum by the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines.

Under the constitution, the Senate and the House of Rep-

resentatives must convene not later than 30 days after the elections to officially count votes for the president and vice president and proclaim the winners.

Voters also will be electing senators, congressmen, provincial, city and municipal officials on May 10. These votes will also be counted using the automated system.

Bordallo receives Arroyo commendation

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Guam Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo received on Tuesday the Order of the Golden Heart award from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines for her support of legislation for Filipino veterans, her advocacy of the Coral Triangle Initiative, and her involvement with the Filipino community of Guam.

Rep. Joe Pitts of Pennsylvania, Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas, and Rep. Jackie Speier of Califor-

nia also received the Order of the Gold Heart award.

President Arroyo made the presentation on April 13 in the U.S. Capitol during her visit to Washington, D.C. for the Nuclear Security Summit.

"I am humbled in receiving this award from President Arroyo," Bordallo said. "Our island is home to a large and vibrant Filipino-American community that contributes to our island's rich diversity.

Our efforts in Congress to make good on promises to Filipino World War II veterans were inspired by the stories of the veterans, who are the heroes. I am also grateful to our Filipino-American community on Guam for their active participation in civic organizations and their many contributions to our island. I again thank President Arroyo for this honor which I graciously accept on behalf of our Filipino community on Guam." (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo, second from right, is joined, from left to right, by Majority Leader Rory J. Respicio of the 30th Guam Legislature, Speaker Judith T. Won Pat of the 30th Guam Legislature, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines, and Sen. Tina Muna-Barnes of the 30th Guam Legislature.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo, center, is presented with the Order of the Golden Heart award by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, left and Philippine Ambassador to the United States Willy C. Gaa.

RP Consulate to offer basic computer class

The Philippine Consulate General, through its Philippine Overseas Labor Office, announces the opening of the registration for the Basic Computer Operations 1 for the second quarter. Classes will be held every Saturdays at 1pm-4pm starting April 24, 2010. Slots shall

be on a first-come, first-served basis. Applicants are requested to bring their umbrella permit or work entry permit, passport and ID picture.

Interested applicants may visit the POLO at the ground floor of Marianas Business Plaza or call 235-6992 or 235-3411. (PR)

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Other Ampatuans in massacre case to be flown to Manila

GENERAL SANTOS CITY, Philippines—The other members of the Ampatuan clan implicated in the November 23 massacre in Maguindanao will be flown to Manila any time Friday after a Quezon City court ordered their transfer from military and police custody to a regular lock-up facility, a lawyer said Friday. Prima Quinsayas, private prosecutor, said she and another private prosecutor Nena Santos, and Quezon City regional trial court sheriff Nestor Rivera arrived at the office of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group here and served the order Friday morning. Quinsayas said they did not leave the CIDG office until they got assurance that former

Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Governor Zaldy Ampatuan, Sajid Ampatuan, and Akmad Ampatuan would be transferred to Manila Friday. Aside from the CIDG detainees, Andal Ampatuan Sr., who has been under military custody in Davao City, will also be flown to Manila on the same day. (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

Foreigner nabbed at NAIA; P64-M worth of 'shabu' seized

MANILA, Philippines—A foreigner was arrested at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport for alleged possession of over P60 million worth of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu), police said Friday. The suspect, identified as 23-year old Ting Chong Lim, a Malaysian national, was arrested 2:45 p.m. at

the arrival area of NAIA Terminal I, after he was seen acting suspiciously, said Police Officer Jesse Narvaez of the Philippine National Police Aviation Security Group. Ting arrived via Malaysian Airlines Flight 704 from Kuala Lumpur, Narvaez said. Narvaez said that prior to Ting's arrest, authorities received information from the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency that a Malaysian national was expected to bring in illegal drugs into the country. The PDEA was, in turn, tipped off by Malaysian anti-narcotics agents, he said. (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

Palace says no to Basilan martial law

MALACANANG on Thursday said it saw no need to declare martial law in Basilan following terror attacks that killed

at least 15 people on Wednesday in the province's capital, Isabela. Gary Olivar, deputy presidential spokesperson, said while the attacks were some of the more serious ever staged in the province, they didn't require the declaration of martial law. Basilan Bishop Martin Jumoad expressed alarm at the attacks, saying the spate of violence that has wracked the province required a declaration of martial law. "This doesn't rise to the level of concern in the aftermath of the Maguindanao massacre," said Olivar. At least 57 people had been killed when gunmen believed allied with the Ampatuan clan of Maguindanao waylaid and opened fire at a convoy of supporters of Esmel Mangudadatu, a vice mayor running for Maguindanao governor. (Philippine Daily Inquirer)

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ADB raises growth projection for the Philippines

By MICHELLE REMO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Asian Development Bank has raised its growth projection for the Philippines for 2010, citing improved global economic conditions that should boost foreign investments and demand for the country's exports.

However, the ADB also expressed concern that the country is performing poorly compared with its neighbors in terms of meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including that on poverty reduction. While the Philippines is poised to accelerate growth from last year's, ADB said, the country

is far from reaching internationally set economic- and social-development goals.

The multilateral agency now expects the Philippines to grow by 3.8 percent this year, up from its earlier projection of 3.3 percent. For next year, ADB expects the country to grow by 4.6 percent.

The projection is anchored on expectations of a strong pickup in exports revenues and sustained growth in remittances sent by Filipinos based overseas. Remittances fuel household consumption, which in turn drives growth of the economy.

"The Philippines is expected to recover significantly this year and next from a very

weak 2009... [but] has been investing less in social sectors and infrastructure than most of its neighbors, partly due to the tight fiscal situation, high public debt, and poor business climate," the ADB said yesterday in a statement on its latest outlook on the country and other Asian countries.

Neeraj Jain, country director of ADB for the Philippines, said in a press conference Tuesday that the Philippines should invest more in infrastructure and work on attracting more investments to accelerate growth to levels that will make it achieve the target on poverty reduction and other MDGs.

The poverty reduction target

under the MDGs is for countries to halve poverty incidence by 2015. In the case of the Philippines, that means reducing the proportion of poor Filipinos to around 17 percent of total population.

Latest indicators so far show that the Philippines is off track to meeting that goal. Latest available data on poverty incidence show that it stood at 33 percent in 2006, up from 30 percent in 2003.

Pending the release of a more recent poverty incidence data, economists expect the figure to have increased last year to at least 35 percent, especially given the adverse impact of the global economic turmoil on the Philippines.

Jain said investments-to-GDP ratio in the Philippines stands at only about 14 percent. He said the country should target to raise the figure to at least 20 percent to help generate more jobs and counter the trend of rising poverty.

"In terms of achieving the MDGs, the situation does not look too good for the Philippines compared with that in neighbors in the region," Jain said.

He suggested that the government implement proposed measures to shore up tax collection so it can afford to invest in infrastructure, which is crucial for investment decisions.

Bills pending in Congress and are intended to help raise

more revenues for the government include the lifting of "unnecessary" tax- and duty-free privileges enjoyed by some businesses, and higher taxes on cigarettes and alcohol.

Meanwhile, ADB said inflation in the Philippines is likely to be within tolerable levels. It expects the annual increase in consumer prices to reach 4.7 percent this year and 4.5 percent in 2005.

The inflation forecasts are within the government's own inflation targets set by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The BSP set the official inflation target to a range of 3.5 to 5.5 percent this year, and a range of 3 to 5 percent next year.



ECONOMIC PROSPECTS

South Korean KIA sedans and SUVs wait to be transported to car plants and eventually to showrooms at Manila South Harbor Wednesday, April 14, 2010 in the Philippines. In a statement last week from the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines, Inc., car sales grow 35 percent to 38,709 units in the first quarter against 28,563 in the same period from last year brightening the country's economic prospects.

7 growth areas in RP, according to foreign investors

By TJ BESA
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Agribusiness, business process outsourcing, creative industries, infrastructure (airports and seaports, road and rail, power and water), manufacturing and logistics, mining, and tourism, medical travel, and retirement will frontline the country's drive for robust investment, foreign investors said in a forum.

At the briefing on "Seven Big Winners: High Growth Sectors for Investment and Jobs" of the Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines, John Casey, president of the Australia-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce, said the joint chambers is committed to creating a "higher standard of life" for Filipinos which would result from higher foreign investments.

The joint chambers' goal for the next decade is to help the country create 10 million new jobs and to produce \$75 billion in foreign direct investments, Casey said.

For his part, Dr. Federico Macaranas of the Asian Institute of Management forecast that 2011 will bear more intense competition for foreign direct investments within Asia, which

would continue to experience the largest growth even in the face of limited global investment.

John Forbes, senior adviser for the Investment Climate Improvement Program, said the Philippines should be able to take advantage of this situation. "The Philippines is located in a region currently with the highest economic growth in the world," and the country may be able to benefit from this by employing strategies used by Asia's most dynamic economies, he said.

Forbes said these strategies include fully exploiting the world economy, maintaining macroeconomic stability, mustering high rates of saving and investment, as well as having a committed, credible, and capable government.

To help promote foreign investments into the country, AIM's Macaranas said investors must have an understanding that the Philippine investment environment is chaotic so that they can respond accordingly with appropriate strategies.

Macaranas also called for the implementation of the Philippine Investments Promotion Plan (PIPP), which seeks to double investments from overseas by 2014, as well as more public-private partnerships.

Given that the joint cham-

bers' recommendations will only create an impact if the next administration considers them, the foreign businessmen's organization said the next president must be a "true visionary, have the capability to implement, and recognize the importance of foreign investments."

The next Philippine president must also make "stability of the business environment" a priority, said Julian Payne, president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

The joint chambers noted that poor governance, lack of political will, and corruption were the barriers to improved inflow of fresh capital into the country.

Despite being a democracy, the Philippines' economic situation is "regrettable" for the mismanagement of its resources, the organization said.

The Philippines is perceived to be among the most corrupt, currently ranking 139th in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index.

The JFCP is composed of the American, Australian-New Zealand, Canadian, European, Japanese, and Korean Chambers of Commerce, as well as the Philippine Association of Multinational Companies Regional Headquarters.

TAKE CHARGE

Loose change and your saving habits

By DR. JOHNNY NOET RAVALO
INQUIRER.NET

What do you do with loose change you acquire everyday? Do you drop them into canisters and forget about them? Do you count if you got the right amount in the first place? Do you leave them as a tip, finding them to be too much of a nuisance?

There are a lot of things that loose change in your hands—or lying somewhere around the house—can say about you and your saving habits.

Let me go back to Al of the *Tale of Two Drivers* that I wrote about months ago. Al's salary is 40 percent higher than the other driver but he had no savings. Today, he still doesn't save.

Al has the bad habit of being a "non-counter." He doesn't check if he got the right amount of change. It is not unusual for Al to be one paper bill short in change (he has been short P1,000, P500, P100, P50 and P20 ... at least he is that consistent). At the same time, Al has no qualms giving a would-be watch-your-car guy P30 even if parking has already been paid for at the car park entrance and the P30 is not even his money but the loose change of his employer.

Non-counters like Al often do not have any saving. Al takes a laid back, fatalistic perspective and is prone to dismiss his situation as part of the difficult times. What I find different about Al and other non-counters is that they often don't have the urge to do something about their cash flows.

This is not about a lack of income since Al gets almost P170,000 a year. It is about a lack of perspective in handling his money. Al prefers to buy all the food he and his family consume daily. The family has a refrigerator but don't cook.

Al turned down an offer from his employer to pay for his son's school expenses at a bet-

ter school. As far as Al is concerned, he can easily afford the P350 a quarter he is presently paying, never mind if the teachers don't show up. In his mind, moving his son to a P9,000 a year school makes no difference because the boy learns to read and write anyway.

Some non-counters are also "coin huggers". Once they get their hands on coins, they will instinctively set them aside... somewhere. The coins are left to pile up. They are merely part of normal transactions.

Coin huggers are sensitive to form and scale. A crisp P100 bill is not the same as 20 pieces of P5 coins. They prefer P100 bills and their disinterest with coins can often be explained by their having more than sufficient income.

Coin huggers are more of investors than savers. Instead of having 30-day time deposits, they most likely will go for higher yield-higher balance-longer tenor instruments. At the highest end of the income spectrum, coin huggers simply skip the coins altogether and they become "coin avoiders." Their saving simply would neither be defined nor affected by the tiny detail the rest of us refer to as coins.

Then there are "transactors." These are people who set aside coins and count them. In most cases, transactors not only build value with their coins but also actively use them.

Most of us started out as transactors when we filled up our alkanasiya. We derived great pleasure in taking stock of the weight of our alkanasiya because it was the defining moment of building value. We didn't want to break the alkanasiya and instead just kept on feeding it more coins.

Transactors are patient savers who do not mind taking small steps in creating value. Today, the fancy term is emotional quotient but back then it was just plain patience.

Among family and friends who kept their alkanasiya growing up, I find them today to be conscientious savers. There is no need for them to learn of newer techniques of saving; they simply make the effort to set aside and keep going and going and going.

This is not a distinction between rich or poor. Non-counters may be ultra-rich while some transactors may not. What we are talking about here is the saving habit and how our attitude toward the small stuff can affect what we do with the bigger stuff, if ever we get there.

Saving does not guarantee that we will always have enough when we need the added purchasing power. By not saving though, we consign ourselves to the world of Al.

Al looks, behaves and is actually content. It is only when his children get sick, when added school expenses come up or when his mother wants to go to the province does he realize that he has no saving and must borrow again. If you borrow from Al, more likely he will actually produce some cash from somewhere. This is why it all boils down to perspective because his income does give him the notional capacity to save.

Do you know how many loose coins you have floating around at home?

Dr. Noet Ravallo is a macro-financial economist by practice and profession. He is currently Managing Director at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the Philippine central bank. Previous to this, he was chief economist of the Bankers Association of the Philippines. Have a question for Dr. Noet? Email personal_finance@inquirer.net. Readers are solely responsible for their investment decisions and should thus conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional advice.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

TAKE FIVE

'His music spoke to me personally'

By **POCHOLO CONCEPCION**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

If the British duo Tears for Fears owes much of its success to the songwriting skills of guitarist Roland Orzabal, due credit must likewise be given to bassist Curt Smith who sang the songs.

The group released three commercially successful and critically acclaimed albums (1983's "The Hurting," 1985's "Songs from the Big Chair" and 1989's "Sowing the Seeds of Love") when Smith left and pursued a solo career.

Orzabal continued recording as Tears for Fears with other collaborators, but it seemed nothing beat the impact and influence of the work he produced with Smith as main partner.

In 2000 the duo reunited.

most of Tears for Fears' biggest hits. What did you like about Roland's songwriting?

Roland and I had similar upbringings—both middle sons of three boys, siblings also the same age. We both felt like misfits and had a shared passion for psychology. Consequently his music spoke to me quite personally.

Why did you leave the band?

Two things converged: I wasn't happy with the way things were going, and I met the woman who would become my wife, who happened to live in New York. That made the decision to leave a bit easier, as I moved to America to be with her.

What kind of satisfaction did you get from your solo albums?



CURTSMITHOFFICIAL.COM

Tears for Fears lead vocalist Curt Smith.

A new album, "Everybody Loves a Happy Ending," was released three years later. The group is currently on tour.

News of Tears for Fears performing on May 2 at the Araneta Coliseum reportedly persuaded many fans here to buy tickets by the block—the concert apparently to serve as a happy reunion date for '80s-batch schoolmates.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer sought Smith recently for an e-mail chat:

You and Roland go a long way as childhood friends before forming your first band. While struggling in the early days, did you think you would someday become successful?

I don't think we imagined quite the level of success that we ended up achieving, but certainly we aspired for our music to be heard by a wide audience. Obviously, we were delighted when our first album was successful; it's fantastic when people appreciate your work.

You sang lead vocals on

When you're part of any group, the ultimate product represents some amount of compromise. What's creatively rewarding about solo work is that I can be completely self-indulgent, and make the music I want to make.

What do you like most about getting back with Roland?

Roland and I find things much easier now, as we're older and more mature. It used to be that all we cared about was music; now we have families and they are more important to us.

What's the best song that Tears for Fears has ever made and why?

I would have to say "Sowing the Seeds of Love," because it's (arguably) the most complete representation of what a Tears for Fears song could be, from writing, structure, to production.

What do you think of Adam Lambert's version of "Mad World" in "American Idol"?

I thought it was nearly as good as the original. :)

Why KC said yes at last to 'Buzz'

By **MARINEL CRUZ**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



ANDREW TADALAN

BECAUSE mom Sharon finally approved. KC looks happy receiving roses from co-host Boy Abunda last Sunday.

KC Concepcion, the latest and youngest "The Buzz" cohost, turned down the offer to replace Ruffa Gutierrez twice.

"It had something to do with the old format," she told Inquirer during a set visit. "Also because naunahan ako ng nerbiyos."

KC shares hosting chores with Kris Aquino and Boy Abunda; Ruffa is now with TV5's "Paparazzi," another talk show.

On April 11, "The Buzz" introduced major changes to its look and format, including "The KC Exclusives," which spotlights new actors and Kapamilya shows.

"The new format focuses on positive news," KC explained. "I'd rather not handle chismis yet. I'm still learning the ropes."

She hinted that it was the changes that prompted her mom, Sharon Cuneta, to allow her to join the show.

KC added, "I first dabbled in hosting when I was 16, as an MTV VJ. I was also into theater at the time and doing TV commercials."

She admitted having been nervous on her first day on "The Buzz." KC explained, "All the shows I've done in the past had been taped. On a live show, you have to be snappy."

OVERHEARD

In short, no comment

THE USUALLY loquacious Rosanna Roces clams up when asked to comment on her supposed (long-running) tiff with Bong Revilla, whose son Jolo is the father of her daughter Grace's son. Or she says "no comment"

in four sentences: "There's no room for hate in my heart. I'm not perfect. When someone attacks me, I still get mad. But more than being angry, I am thankful for all my blessings." (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

Is the Krista-Jinkee match far from over?

By **DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Could it be true that Krista Ranillo allegedly told a friend in the United States: "Ubos na naman pera ni Manny pag-uwi niya kay Jinkee kasi nag-shopping kami sa Hermes at binigyan niya ako ng boutique dito."

A distant relative of Krista tipped me off about it. Krista and Manny will surely deny this.

Pacman's boxing matches only have 12 rounds. But it seems Team Krista and Team Jinkee will slug it out till eternity. If ever Krista gets knocked up, will that knock out Jinkee?

Beauty queens come and go—except Gloria Diaz. Her Miss Universe charm never fades. She remains adored and revered.

What's her advice to dethroned Bb. Pilipinas-Universe 2010, Maria Venus Raj? "She should move on," Gloria says. "Binibining Pilipinas Inc. has the last say."

Does she approve of Willie Revillame who's being linked to her gorgeous niece, Georgina Wilson? "Willie is a super guy who works hard. But I doubt it



Gloria Diaz

if he and George have anything to do with each other except if it's work-related."

Someone privy to Ronald Singson's affairs insists that he is having a hard time keeping up with Lovi Poe's happy-go-lucky ways. "Nag-mellow na si Ronald pero si Lovi mahilig pa rin gumimik, kasi nga bata pa siya."

With the way Ronald pampers Lovi like a queen, she ought to compromise. Love conquers and tames all. It's either he converts her or she converts him. But for any relationship to work, it's best to change together.

Guess list

■ A young actress/host is

banned for life from setting foot on a northern province. "Nilait nya kasi mga taga doon," says my source. "Naginarte pa during the event. Sinusumpa siya ng mga tao doon. They will boycott her movies and shows." No North for her anymore.

■ A TV host was shocked with the way the mom of his actress friend treats her when she brought him to her place. She eagerly told her mom that she shot two commercials that day. Instead of being happy for her, the mom snapped back, "That's nothing compared to what I accomplished," and stormed out of the sala. Mommie Meanest?

■ An actress is being haunted by her conscience for having her baby (with an older politico) aborted some years ago. No wonder she has turned spiritual.

■ If my mom were still alive, I'm sure she will volunteer to join in Jinggoy Estrada's sorties. Jinggoy is like family to us. He was there for us during our darkest hours.

One funny anecdote was when my mom called up Jinggoy, asking him if he knew anyone who could fill up our swimming pool because we were having a party that night. We were so surprised

when he sent a fire truck.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Maui Taylor wants to clarify that she is not getting hitched anytime soon. "My BF proposed to me," she admits. "But I told him to wait. I still want to accomplish a lot of things. Besides, I'm wary of getting stretch marks if ever I get pregnant (laughs). Katawa that some shows interviewed my ex Bryan Revilla to ask his sentiments about the issue."

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Prepare for a movie-like experience in GMA 7's drama anthology, "Claudine" (Saturdays after "Pinoy Records") starring Kapamilya-turned-Kapuso, Claudine Barretto. Shot in regional locations all over the country, it draws inspiration from true stories. Claud takes on roles inspired by real-life characters she handpicked.

Off-cam, her love/hate relationship with her sister Gretchen is even more "ma-drama" than a teleserye. Greta also has a flair for drama. Her recent eksena was walking out of her own press con.

The Barrettos' true-to-life drama drums up interest in their respective shows.

Maharlika – Opinyon

Be honored or be cursed

Many things are not as they seem, while others are worse than one can imagine. Judging a book by its cover may not always be accurate, for the contents may be the opposite or even uglier than you think.

Many of us are not exactly lacking in our ability to judge a person. If that were so, then society would be most chaotic. What most of us lack is the complete information, which then causes us to make a defective conclusion. We may end up believing more than what is true, or not believing enough.

It complicates it even more when we fall for the saying, “a person is assumed innocent until proven guilty” without understanding the context of the saying. Beyond reasonable doubt is not only a thin line, but an invisible one at that. And when what is legal becomes the foundation for what is also moral in a society that is afflicted with a corrupt value system, then crooks and killers who can buy the smartest lawyers or judges with disabled consciences can laugh all the way to the bank.

Truly, if divine justice does not exist, then unfairness would be the dominant character of life. Despite the seeming injustice that pains our lives from the different circumstances we go through, our sanity holds because we believe deep inside that a just God sees all and applies not only His love but His laws to everyone—without exception. Therefore, what we see on the surface may reveal facets of the truth but hides even more.

In our society, the level of corruption is such that our president, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, has much to be personally ashamed of. Nine long years at the helm of government, nine long years as the one who sets the tone and color of governance, has reaped for her the highest ratings of unpopularity and dissatisfaction in the annals of Philippine history.

If the Philippines were judged by the criteria which international agencies evaluate the level of corruption of all other countries in

the world, then Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has failed miserably in the honesty and transparency department. Worse, she has helped drag Filipinos into a state of collective shame before the eyes of our global neighbors.

There are some who would first like Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to be sued and then proven guilty before they will accept that she is corrupt or has led the government in corruption. I am afraid that these few will not believe that she had gotten a fair trial if at all she were convicted. We had seen it with Joseph Estrada. Not only he but many of his supporters as well insist that he was innocent, and that he just did not get a fair trial.

In the end, therefore, it is not the courts who will convince us of the guilt or innocence of our public officials or political lords, it will be our own sense of justice and the value system we allow to dominate our lives.

When the great majority of Filipinos find Gloria Macapagal Arroyo most unpopular, what are they trying to say? The unpopularity rating of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo is not an overnight development—it has been there year after year. It is not an instant judgment of the Filipino people; it is a conclusion that has passed through years of continuous assessment. And for those who believe that Filipinos are not capable of judging character or performance, then they must take the pain to deliberately raise the level of information and intelligence of the people or find another race to belong to.

Because of the ill will that she has generated from millions of people, and the general conclusion that she has abused her office, looted the treasury and set up cronies to front for her and her family, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo is seen as desperate to hold on to power, as a continuing president under any pretext that will allow her to do so, or as a future Speaker of Congress. That desperation is assumed to come from a fear of prosecution, and persecution. Perhaps, the fate of Joseph Estrada as a detained accused and a convicted plunderer weighs heavily in her mind, and the possible projection that her future will be worse than what Estrada experienced.

Only Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and her First Gentleman know the

love go naked and allow themselves to be seen confidently by light of the day.”

Jacinto left us with a code of conduct in 13 steps called the Cartilla. Once this was but textbook history to me, but today these words guide us on who we should elect into office on May 10. The Cartilla is as follows:

- I. The life that is not spent in the service of a great and noble cause is like a tree without shade, or like a poisonous weed.
- II. The good work that is done out of self-interest and not for its own sake has no merit.
- III. True piety consists in doing good to others, in loving one's neighbor, and in making right reason the rule of every action, work, and word.
- IV. All men are equal, whether the color of their skin be white or black. One man may surpass another in wisdom, wealth, or beauty but not in that which makes him a man.
- V. The magnanimous man puts honor before self-interest, the mean-spirited man, self-interest before honor.
- VI. The word of a man of sensibility is as good as an oath.
- VII. Do not squander time, for wealth lost may be recovered, but time that has passed by will not come your way again.

VIII. Champion the oppressed and defy the oppressor.

IX. The prudent man weighs every word he utters, and has learned how to keep a secret.

X. On the thorny path of life, it is the man who leads his wife and children; if he who leads goes after evil, so will those who follow him.

XI. Look not upon woman merely as a plaything, but one who shares with you the hardships of this life. Be mindful of her frailty; remember the mother who bore you and gave you suck.

XII. What you will not have others do to your wife, daughter, or sister, do not to the wife, daughter, or sister of another.

XIII. A man's worth does not consist in being a king, or in having a sharp nose and a white skin, or in filling as a priest the office of being God's representative. It does not consist in being one of the great ones of the earth. What though a man be born and raised in the wilderness and speak no other language but his own? If his ways are gentle, if his word is true, if he cherishes his good name, if he neither suffers nor commits injustice, if he knows how to love the land that gave him birth and to come to her assistance, that man is really and truly great.

May all take these teachings to heart, and may the dear sun of freedom shine brightly on our hapless country and may its lovely light bring to our people one in blood and brotherhood, happiness without end, happiness to make up for the lives sacrificed, the labors undergone, the sufferings endured to obtain it.

Comments are welcome at my Facebook Fan Page.



Glimpses

By JOSE MA. MONTELIBANO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Jacinto's Cartilla

Emilio Jacinto (1875-1899) has gone down in history textbooks under his Katipunan name “Pinkian” or the title “Brains of the Katipunan.” There is some confusion here, because Apolinario Mabini, who is also known as “The Sublime Paralytic,” is sometimes referred to as the “Brains of the Revolution,” a title also used on Jacinto.

To settle this issue, Gregoria de Jesus went on record and stated that she, her husband Andres Bonifacio, and Jacinto once visited Mabini in his Nagtahan home by the Pasig River to discuss revolutionary matters. On their way home, Bonifacio and Jacinto were talking when Bonifacio suddenly laughed and said that Mabini thought so highly of himself, he considered himself greater than Jose Rizal! Gregoria de Jesus insisted that Jacinto deserved to be called “Brains of the Revolution” more than Mabini.

We will never know what the personal dynamics were and leave that comment at face value. However, Epifanio de los Santos once wrote that “if Andres Bonifacio was the soul of the Katipunan, Emilio Jacinto was the intelligence and enthusiasm directing it.”

Some years ago, while visiting the Spanish colonial churches of Laguna, I came across a memorial to Jacinto in Magdalena Church. It is believed that Jacinto fell in battle and was brought to the church for rest and the care of his wounds. There are stains on the tile floor that are supposed to be Jacinto's blood. This was as close as I could get to the man whose only extant photograph is a “re-cuerdo de patay” showing him lifeless on a bier holding his trusted rifle. These are rather distressing bits of history, but they made Jacinto real to me. These things made Jacinto more than a forgotten name from textbook history.

The little we know about Jacinto comes from a biographical sketch written by Epifanio de los Santos. It is from this source that we have Jacinto's writings.

I re-read Jacinto again last week expecting to be bored, but then as the presidential elections draws near, I realized that his is a voice that suddenly becomes relevant in the midst of the campaign. He contrasted light and glitter and his words are timely:

“Glitter hurts the eye and deceives. Light favors sight and shows things as they are. Glitter is fallacious. Let us seek light and do not let us be deceived by the false glitter of the wicked. Does a brilliant carriage pass us, drawn by spirited horses? We salute and consider that he who sits in it is a person of social standing. But perhaps, he is a thief and the jewelry and vain show of honesty may conceal a perverse heart. Alas! It is the custom to worship glitter and reject light. Treason and perversity seek glitter in order to conceal their falseness from the eyes of the spectator; but honesty and sincere



Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

extent of their guilt or innocence. Only they as a couple in partnership or as individuals who made distinct decisions apart from one another know just what they did or did not do, they lives they helped or the lives they snuffed out, the money they earned or the money they stole, the people they nurtured or the people they betrayed, the country they served or the country they exploited. Their confidence in their innocence or their fear from their guilt is what they carry every day of their lives. We can only see the surface, the covers of their books, while they know everything about themselves.

By NILO S. TAYAG
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Who are the marginalized and who are fit to represent them

Editor's Note: Bishop Nilo S. Tayag is the representative of the partylist Bandila, one of the partylists running for a position in the Philippine Congress in this year's election.

There is so much contrived confusion both by those who stand to profit from it and by the mass media that push for their own selfish interests in obfuscating the issue as to who are marginalized and who are fit to represent them.

Definitely the noble intention of the framers of the 1987 Constitution is to democratize an existing lopsided situation where the House of Representatives is dominated by landlords, the capitalist class and their cohorts leaving the 85 percent of the population composed of workers, peasants, informal settlers, urban poor, fisherfolk, government employees, small businessmen, jeepney, truck and tricycle drivers and other poor sectors, bereft of any kind of aggregation, articulation and real representation of their true and genuine interests.

To be marginalized is to belong to the 85 percent of the population that is left with the 15 percent of the resources which they almost single-handedly produced, who are left out of the mainstream of society composed invariably by the ruling classes of our society who monopolize 85 percent of the wealth or the fruits of the labors of the marginalized.

To be marginalized is to be propertyless and powerless, with only their labor power to sell in the market in contrast to the propertied classes who own the means of production, including the land which contain all the other natural resources. These propertied classes do not only have their direct and indirect representation in all branches of government but also manipulate the electoral process through their power and wealth and are invariably the products of elite schools which reproduce their kind of leadership in Philippine society in a perpetual dominance of traditional politics in the country.

The truth is, it does not really matter from what class the leader or representative of the marginalized sectors come from. There is such a phenomenon of being déclassé, or turning one's back to one's own class origin, ready to act and sacrifice even life and sacred honor decisively, and unconditionally embracing the cause, the true and genuine interest and lot of the working masses, the disenfranchised, the oppressed, the exploited, the hoi polloi, the great unwashed or the marginalized, unrepresented and underrepresented in our society.

There should be a long and consistent history of service and sacrifice by these leaders for and in behalf of the marginalized and disenfranchised sectors of our society, truly fighting for their genuine interests and grievances through the years of struggles to improve the quality of their subhuman lives. These are the men and women who are fit to lead partylist organizations or the sectoral organizations of the country. Their credentials and records of service and sacrifice cannot be denied because it is well documented in the most recent history of the Filipino people. Their being eminently qualified to lead the marginalized sectors cannot be questioned nor debated.

I sincerely hope that this little explanation will help the COMELEC find its way out of labyrinthian confusion which is essentially of its own making as to who is marginalized and who is fit to lead them.

Samu't Sari

ISLAND CLEANUP DAY



“Keep our island clean and beautiful” is the slogan in the heart of every member of the Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th watch). Each year the church dedicates a day to do community service for the island. This year, they did an island cleanup on April 11, dividing some 40 members, including kids, into three groups, cleaning up the beach from Subway Beach in Chalan Kanoa to Kilili Beach, from Oleai Beach to 13 Fishermen, and around Micro Beach and American Memorial Park.

With sweepers and trash bags in hand, some 40 members of the Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th watch) picked up trash and garbage along Saipan’s beaches on April 11, from 4pm to 6pm. The cleanup was followed by a picnic at the church.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONGRATULATIONS!
Congratulation to the newlyweds, Stephen James Stafford and Imelda Abulencia, shown here celebrating with friends. Greetings come from Sharmaine.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BIKE POLICE PROGRAM IN FULL SWING

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas police officers with detective and bike patrol training graduate on April 9, 2010, at DFS Galleria on Saipan. DFS Galleria’s Tournament of Championships golf fundraiser and the Marianas Visitors Authority helped fund the program, which will provide patrols in western Garapan as a visible deterrent to crimes against residents and tourists.



LUCKY WINNER

One lucky attendee of the 2010 Marianas Seminar and Workshop this week in Tokyo wins a round-trip ticket to Saipan, donated by Delta Airlines. The Marianas Visitors Authority reached nearly 250 travel agents and media representatives in Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka during the seminar from April 6-8, 2010. The seminar aims to familiarize attendees with the islands so they can better promote and sell the destination.

MVA



EAGLE SCOUT AWARD

Arthur Tunaia Welch will be receiving his Eagle Scout award tomorrow, April 18, 2010 at the Latter Day Saints church (100 meters north of McDonald’s in Chalan Lau Lau). The ceremony will begin at 6pm. The Eagle Scout Award represents many years of dedicated effort. It is a firm demonstration of how people, working together through the years, can truly help mold a young man with a solid sense of leadership, citizenship, and responsibility. Arthur would like to invite all the Eagle Scouts, Scout leaders, boy scouts, other friends and members of the community, who have been involved in his trail to Eagle.



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday to Bobby Gabao and Lorna Divinagracia, who both celebrated their birthdays last Saturday, April 10, 2010, at residence of Joseph and Gloria Domingo in As Lito, Saipan, CNMI. Greetings coming from their barkadas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

YoungStyle

Reinventing, or totally skipping, your senior year

By GREG TOPPO
USA TODAY

When Utah state Sen. Chris Butters unveiled a cost-cutting measure that would have made the high school senior year optional, perhaps no one in the state Capitol Building was more surprised than 18-year-old Jake Trimble, who already opted out of the second half of senior year weeks earlier.

He has spent the past month working at the Capitol as an unpaid intern for the state Democratic Party's communications team. Trimble graduated in January from the nearby Academy of Math Engineering and Science, or AMES.

Trimble is part of a small but growing group of students—most of them academically

advanced—who are tinkering with their senior year. A few observers say the quiet experiment has the potential to reinvent high school.

Already, 21 states allow early graduation, according to the Education Commission of the States; 35 states allow students to finish high school based on mastering proficiency standards

on state tests.

By fall 2011, high schools in eight states will take part in a new initiative, announced last week, that will allow high school sophomores who pass a series of "board exams" to graduate two years early and move directly to a two- or four-year college.

Since 2002, another effort, underwritten by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, has created more than 200 "early college high schools," which enroll

50,000 students for a similar purpose. Many high schools now let students enroll in college concurrently, often with a chance to earn a high school diploma and associate's degree in five years.

Joel Vargas of Jobs for the Future, a Boston non-profit that works with young people, says that helps many students, "hard-wiring college expectations" into the high school experience.

At AMES in Salt Lake City, Principal Al Church says the

debate over Butters' bill—since withdrawn—"ignited a necessary controversy: How can we make 12th grade really meaningful?"

He adds: "The research on adolescents is pretty clear—these kids are ready for adult responsibilities. . . . So let's put them in environments in which they can be active learners, experiential learners, project-based learners."

Butters, a longtime Republican lawmaker, initially pro-

posed eliminating senior year altogether, then later modified the proposal to make senior year optional. Still, he notes that legislative analysts calculate that it costs \$120 million to fund 12th grade in Utah's 41 districts—money that could be better spent helping kids who really need help.

"Too often, teachers move at the pace of the slowest student," he says. "Well, this allows a student to race forward if he wants to."

If half of Utah's seniors doubled up on coursework and graduated early, he says, the state could trim \$60 million from its \$700 million deficit. Most educators frown on excising senior year as a cost-cutting measure, but several actually say that, as it's currently experienced by most teens in the USA, senior year is an expensive boondoggle.

"For many youngsters, it's a waste of time," says Daniel Domenech, executive director of the American Association of School Administrators. "And it's certainly a waste of money for hard-pressed school systems, who could better use those dollars to spend on the youngsters that need the additional time."

Why not give struggling students an extra year or two to master academics, he asks, while letting talented, motivated kids finish in 10 or 11 years?

Church, the Salt Lake City principal, says letting students such as Trimble graduate early and take on more responsibilities is just what's necessary.

Says Trimble: "Academically I'm still being challenged . . . so it's not like I've ended my education. I've just sort of moved on."

BIBLE TRIVIA

By WILSON CASEY
(C) 2010 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

1 Is the book of Obadiah in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2 Which Babylon king went insane living in the fields eating grass? Nebuchadnezzar, Solomon, Daniel, Herod

3 From Genesis 23, what was the first land purchase in the Bible? Garden, Hilltop, Cave, River shore

4 Which apostle was ordained to minister to the Gentiles? Thomas, Paul, Andrew, John

5 According to Song of Solomon 1:2, what is love better than? Food, Wine, Money, Song

6 Who was Hananiah's father? Abiah, Azur, Allon, Aretas

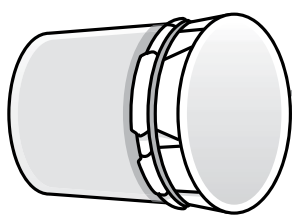
ANSWERS: 1) Old; 2) Nebuchadnezzar; 3) Cave; 4) Paul; 5) Wine; 6) Azur Wilson Casey's new book, "Firsts: Origins of Everyday Things That Changed the World," is available from Alpha/Penguin publishing.

A model of an eye

Here's how to make a model of your eye, which works like a small camera.

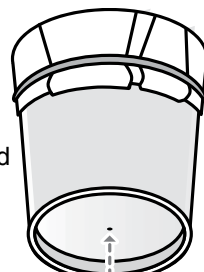
You'll need

- ☐ Small paper cup (not plastic foam)
- ☐ Wax paper
- ☐ Rubber band
- ☐ Pin
- ☐ Bright light

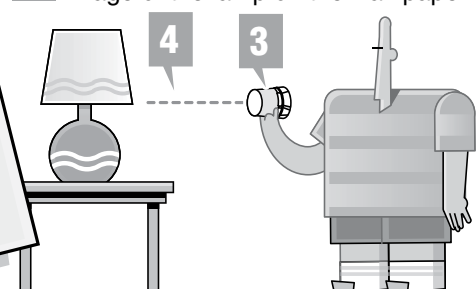


Do this

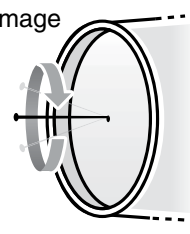
- 1** Attach a piece of wax paper to the top of the cup with the rubber band
- 2** Use the pin to put a small hole in the center of the bottom of the cup



- 3** Turn off the room lights and point the bottom of the cup toward the light
- 4** Stand about an arm's length from the light and move the cup slowly toward the light
- 5** At a certain distance, you will see an image of the lamp on the wax paper



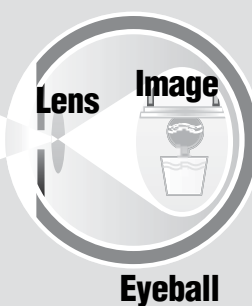
Use the pin to make the hole bigger. Does that make the image sharper?



What happened?

When you hold the cup the right distance away from the lamp, you can see an upside down image of the lamp on the wax paper

In your eye, a tiny lens focuses light on the back wall of the eyeball, making an upside down image; your brain interprets the image so it seems right side up to you



Making the hole in the cup bigger makes the image a bit brighter, but it's not as sharp and focused

How quick are your nerves?

Here's an interesting test of a person's reaction time, or how fast a person's brain, nerves and muscles can work together.

You'll need

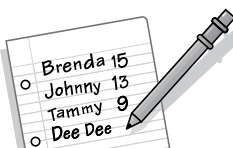
- ☐ Meter stick or yardstick
- ☐ Pencil and paper (to write down results of experiment)
- ☐ Several people who agree to take part in your experiment

Do this

Give each person this test three times, then have someone test you:

- 1** Hold the stick by its top end
- 2** Ask the person to hold his or her fingers just above – but not touching – the middle of the stick (the 50-cm mark for a meter stick, the 18-inch mark for a yard stick)
- 3** Tell the person to close his or her fingers and catch the stick as soon as it starts to drop
- 4** Wait quietly for the stick to stop swinging, count to yourself between 5 and 10 seconds, then let go of the stick
- 5** Check to see what number the person's fingers are touching after he or she catches the stick

Who has the fastest reactions?
Who has the slowest?



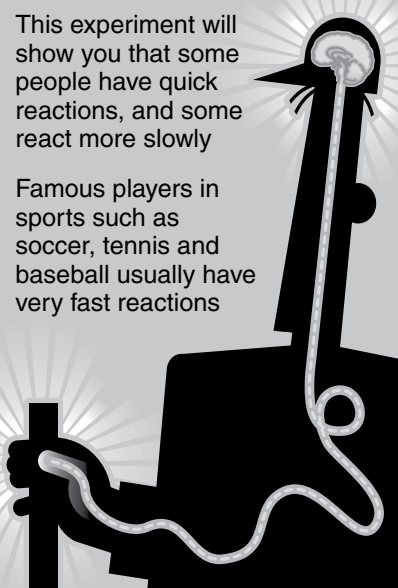
Brenda 15
Johnny 13
Tammy 9
Dee Dee

What happened?

When the person sees the stick move, his or her brain has to signal to the finger muscles to move and catch the stick

This experiment will show you that some people have quick reactions, and some react more slowly

Famous players in sports such as soccer, tennis and baseball usually have very fast reactions



END OF SCHOOL

OPTICAL

THE ABOVE ILLUSTRATION contains the first two lines of a famous jingle. Can you find them?

Answer: Hold the page level with your eye, tilt it slightly, and you will read "No more pencils" in the elongated letters. Turn the page to read the rest of the jingle. "No more books."

ODD MAN OUT! To the right is a list of words. Can you find the word that doesn't have what the other words have?

Answer: The word Hackles. The other words all contain the name of a tree. (1. Oak, 3. Elm, 4. Pine, 5. Fir)

LINK-UPS! Here's a list of 12 short words, divided into two columns. Turn them into six longer words by linking them together. To do this, draw a line from one word in the left column to one word in the right.

Answers: Fallowed, dabbled, gentled, implode, heartier, lapsing.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

PYRAMID OF WORD POWER!

See if you can "pump up" your word power by solving this one in less than three minutes. Starting with the given word MEDALLING, at the bottom of our pyramid, try dropping one letter at a time as you work your way up, so that the remaining letters at each level spell out a new word. The following helpful hints are in ascending order, beginning with MEDALLING.

1. Winning a contest.
2. The victim of harmful statements.
3. The act of distributing cards.
4. A pleasant or friendly manner.
5. Often wears a space helmet.
6. A strong fastener.
7. Nothing, zero.
8. Currently fashionable.
9. Symbol for electrical current.

Answers: (from the bottom up): Medalling, malignant, dealing, genial, alien, nail, nil, in, I.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was French writer and film director Marguerite Duras who made the following observation: "I believe that always, or almost always, in all childhood, and in all the lives that follow them, the mother represents madness. Our mothers always remain the strangest, craziest people we've ever met."
- In Colorado, it is illegal to mutilate a rock in a state park.
- Those who track radio statistics say that Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven" is the most-requested song in the United States—and this despite the fact that the song was never released as a single on this side of the Atlantic.
- If you use Listerine to freshen your breath, you might be interested to know that its original formula is 26.9 percent alcohol by volume—that comes out to 54-proof gargle.

- There are lots of sports fans out there, and a lot of sports to enjoy: football, basketball, soccer, baseball, hockey ... olive oil wrestling? OK, maybe there aren't a lot of oiled wrestling events here in America, but in Turkey it's the national sport. Kirkpinar, as it's known there, has been popular since the Ottoman Empire. The Turkish town of Edirne has been hosting the annual tournament since 1361.
- It was in Kitchener, Ontario, in 2006 that the world's largest smoothie was made. Over the course of 3 1/2 hours and using seven blenders, the folks there made a whopping 195 gallons of the fruity beverage.

Thought for the Day: "Infatuation is when you think that he's as sexy as Robert Redford, as smart as Henry Kissinger, as noble as Ralph Nader, as funny as Woody Allen and as athletic as Jimmy Connors. Love is when you realize he's as sexy as Woody Allen, as smart as Jimmy Connors, as funny as Ralph Nader, as athletic as Henry Kissinger and nothing like Robert Redford—but you'll take him anyway."—Judith Viorst

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MAGIC MAZE

SOUTH AMERICAN PORT CITIES

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Arica	Chimbote	Itajai	Recife
Buenos Aires	Fortaleza	Manaus	Salaverry
Cabrero	Georgetown	Maracaibo	San Antonio
Cayenne	Iquique	Porto Alegre	

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GO FIGURE!

by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult

★★★ GO FIGURE!

	+		X		11
X		+		+	
	+		÷		6
+		+		+	
	+		÷		8
27		23		5	

1 2 2 4 5 6 7 8 9

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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER

SOUTH AMERICAN PORT CITIES

GO FIGURE ANSWER

					27
5		23			
8		2	÷	6	+
	+			+	
6		2	÷	8	+
	+			+	X
11	1	X	6	+	5

Should dogs roam school playground?

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I walk early every morning around my neighborhood, and almost every time I walk past the elementary school, I see people letting their dogs run around the grassy part of the playground. This is right around sunrise, before school opens. I don't think this should be allowed. What if a dog leaves a nasty "surprise" for the kids? Who should I call to report this—Concerned in New England

DEAR CONCERNED: While you raise a good point about dogs possibly leaving waste behind after romping around the playground, there doesn't appear to be any other harm done from your description of what's going on.

Before calling to report these dastardly evildoers, be sure to check municipal, county or school board regulations about pets. There probably are regulations about when and where pets can't go—like inside the school or on the grounds during school hours—but there may not be any rule stopping pet owners from letting their dogs romp on the grass at 6 a.m.

I'm somewhat ambivalent about telling you how to stop a dog owner from letting his dog play in a controlled area. It's become very difficult for urban and suburban owners to find open, unregulated places for their pets to play. But it's certainly



your right to voice your concerns, to the city or the school board.

For pet owners faced with a dearth of open spaces, it's more important now than ever to make a good impression on neighbors, many of whom aren't thrilled about off-leash anything—even designated dog parks. Socialize your dog to humans and other dogs from a young age, make sure your pet responds promptly to basic commands, pick up its mess from sidewalks and grounds right away, and be considerate to others.

Send your pet questions to Sam Mazzotta at ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. Find more pet resources at www.PawsCorner.com.

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Pen bouquet is 'write' when you need it

Why is it that you can't ever find a pen when you need one? It's as though they have wings of invisible ink that take them far away from where they belong.

Businesses and services know about this disappearing act, and take on the challenge of safeguarding their pens. Our local gas station attaches white plastic spoons to the ends with big wads of masking tape. Colorful toothbrushes adorn the pens at the dentist's office, while surgical tape binds tongue depressors to the pens at the medical clinic, making them look like splints.

Our dry cleaners attaches bundles of wispy down feathers that flutter on the end to keep me smiling even as I sign my name to the bill. But my favorite idea by far is at the charming Twigg's Home & Garden store around the corner from my house. Cleverly arranged in a rustic European terra cotta flower pot filled with natural soy beans "grow" translucent white pens with faux-green succulents glued to the top, while a little red bird sits on the rim keeping an eye on the till.

No matter where I go, it's as if these pens with personality are saying, "Don't even think of taking me away from here!" Which got me thinking.

Why not jazz up a new set of inexpensive pens and put them in an attractive vase or flowerpot for a practical pen bouquet right at home? Not only will it decorate the phone-message area, but there will always be a pen "write" when you need it! It's an easy and quick project the whole family will enjoy.

First, gather silk flowers, botanicals,



small toys and charms or any other gizmos to decorate the tops of pens. Think of holiday items on a party stick too, such as shamrocks, Easter eggs and flags. Then, purchase several pens, such as Bic round stick pens that are flat on top.

How to attach toppers using green floral tape:

Place a stem of a silk flower or party stick going upward about 2 1/2 inches from the end of the pen with the flower or

charm on the top end of the pen. Hold in place and wrap the entire length of the pen with the tape. Wrap with a light angle to prevent bunching.

How to attach toppers with a glue gun:

An adult should carefully remove the button at the end of the pen with an X-acto-style knife. Insert a tiny stem or narrow part of an object in the hole and secure in place with the glue gun.

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

A century later: Death of Mark Twain recalled

By HILLEL ITALIE
AP NATIONAL WRITER

REDDING, Connecticut (AP)—Mark Twain died here on April 21, a century ago. He was 74, and in failing health, his heart—his tobacco heart, he called it—so weak that he interrupted a restful cruise to Bermuda to return and die at the house on a hill built for him just two years earlier.

"Mark Twain is dead!" cried The San Francisco Examiner. "In those four words America announces to a weeping world the loss of her foremost literary man."

It had been a quarter of a century since Twain's classic "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," but Twain remained the country's most famous and beloved writer, the slouching, white-suited, frizzy-haired humorist and storyteller. The records of Twain's final days were in bold headlines, with Twain's doctor providing updates carried by news outlets around the world.

"Yesterday was a bad day for the little knot of anxious watchers at the bedside," The Associated Press reported just before his death, adding that health concerns had led Twain to cut his smoking from 20 cigars a day to four.

"No deprivation was a greater sorrow to him. He tried to smoke on the steamer while returning from Bermuda, and only gave it up because he was too feeble to draw on his pipe. Even on his deathbed, when he had passed the point of speech and it was no longer certain that his ideas were lucid, he would make the motion of waving a cigar, and, smiling, would expel empty air from under the mustache still stained with smoke."

Twain had suffered a decade of trials. He lost his beloved wife, Olivia, and two of his children, one of whom—Jean—died suddenly at the end of 1909, a tragedy that led Twain to vow he would never write again. Bad investments had forced him out of his eccentric Victorian mansion in Hartford and brought him to Redding, where he lived in a Tuscan-style house he named Stormfield, in part for his story "Extract from Captain Stormfield's Visit to Heaven."

Age saddened, but did not silence him. He was a leading opponent of the war in the Philippines and other military actions by the emerging American empire. He composed some of his toughest short pieces, such as the novella "The Man That Corrupted Hadleyburg," or his mocking inquiry into Christian Science and an even harder hit on religion in "Letters From the Earth," in which Satan documents the follies of man's worship.

"He prays for help, and favor,



In this undated portrait released by The Mark Twain House & Museum, the home of author Mark Twain, born Samuel Langhorne Clemens is shown in Hartford, Conn.

and protection, every day; and does it with hopefulness and confidence, too, although no prayer of his has ever been answered," Satan reports.

Twain was fascinated, puzzled and eventually resolved about the nature of humans. "What Is Man?" was a Socratic dialogue in which an older man teases a younger man for believing we had control of our actions. God or no God, we are who we are, our lives determined by forces beyond us—by history and by nature.

"You can't eradicate your disposition, nor any rag of it," the older man advises. "You can only put a pressure on it and keep it down and quiet."

Mark Twain, the pen name Samuel Langhorne Clemens concocted for himself, was a serious man who couldn't help but make folks laugh. As surely as Benjamin Franklin was the founding father who "winks" at us, as biographer Walter Isaacson once wrote, Twain's eye catches ours like no other "classic" American author.

He is unstuffy, one of us. The line that begins Chapter 1 of "Huck Finn" ("You don't know about me without you have read a book by the name of 'The Adventures of Tom Sawyer'; but that ain't no matter") seems no less cheeky and disruptive than it did 125 years ago. Favorite maxims such as "an uneasy conscience is a hair in the mouth" need no updating or explanation.

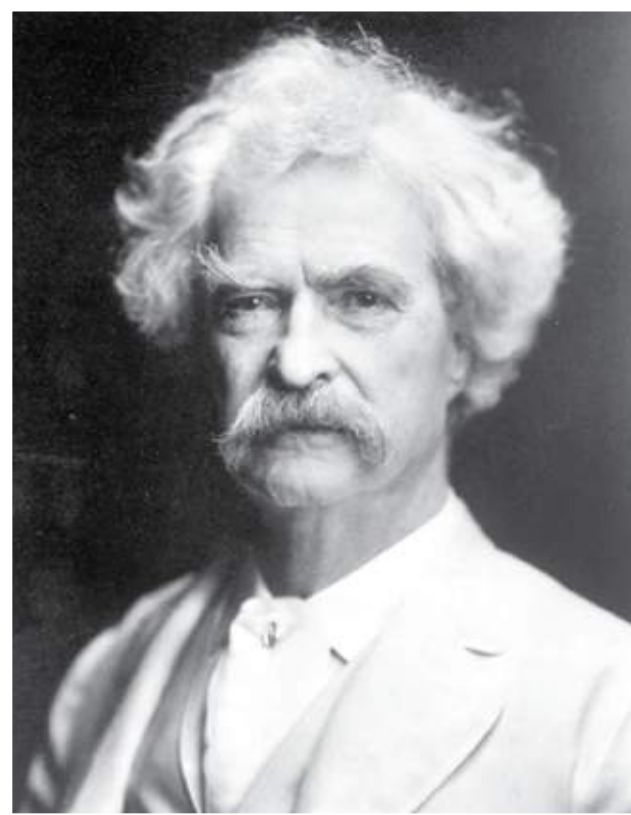
Born in Florida, Missouri, in 1835, and raised, for the most part, in Hannibal, Twain was

bred in a border state, sharpened in the West and polished in the East. He told wild tales, wrote merciless parodies and made poetry out of his rustic youth. He worked as a river pilot on the Mississippi (according to river pilots, the author once explained, "mark twain" means the water is at a safe depth to navigate), a journalist in San Francisco and carried on everywhere from New Orleans to Nevada.

Twain, by nature, was a contradictory soul, a drinker and freethinker who married a proper Christian; a satirist and pro-tester who wanted to be loved. The young Twain, like Huck Finn, may have dreaded home and hearth, but the elder author had warmed to a steady roof over his head.

"The Redding house was a dream home," says biographer Michael Shelden, author of "Mark Twain: Man in White," published this spring. "He had been without a proper home for well over 10 years, because he had to leave the house in Hartford. For all that time, he was a wanderer."

Lured to Redding by author-versefier Albert Bigelow Paine, who became his biographer and neighbor, Twain lived a modern life. His house in Hartford was among the first private residences to have a telephone. In Redding, he had his own heating system and water supply. He was so fascinated by new technology that he happily let himself be filmed by Thomas Edison, ambling in front of his home and puffing a cigar. The electricity system was so bright that residents were reminded



In this undated portrait released by The Mark Twain House & Museum, author Mark Twain, born Samuel Langhorne Clemens is shown.

of the glow given off by an all-night factory.

"This is a man who wanted to be a part of the future, who wondered what the world would be like, not so much out of fear, but because he was excited about it," Shelden says.

Redding doesn't compare to Hannibal as a Twain shrine, but his name is no harder to spot than by visiting the library he helped start, the Mark Twain Library, featuring bronzed sculptures of the writer outside, and his characters and famous sayings painted on the walls inside.

Stormfield burned down in 1923, but a pretty fair replica (privately owned) has been built in its place; much of the 340 acres purchased by Twain has been bought and preserved by Redding. The Redding Roadhouse, a restaurant constructed on the same grounds where a fa-

vorite tavern of Twain's once stood, features a portrait of Twain over the bar room's fireplace and rents out a "Mark Twain" room for parties.

"For many years, Twain's time in Redding was known but was not a focus. That has changed quite a bit in the present day," says local historian Brent M. Colley.

A famous author would fit in without notice in 21st-century Redding, a small, well-stocked community where residents have included Leonard Bernstein, Jessica Tandy and Barry Levinson. But in Twain's day, Redding was an unpaved farming village, with little more than a train station and a general store. Twain was a shock to Redding if only because he was the first resident who consulted an architect to build his house.

"It was a big deal when he

came," says Twain scholar Kevin McDonnell. "Redding didn't have a public sewer system. It didn't have electricity. It was a very rural community and not the enclave of wealthy New Yorkers that it is today."

Until the death of his daughter, Twain was a social man. He befriended several local schoolgirls and dubbed them the "angelfish." He chatted with farmers and hosted great names from out of town, such as Helen Keller, whose caretaker, Annie Sullivan, Twain helped immortalize by giving her the nickname that became the title of a play and movie, "The Miracle Worker."

Twain worked hard to set his story down. He not only cooperated with a biographer, but wrote hundreds of pages for a planned autobiography. At the same time, he became obsessed with Shakespeare and the latest theories over whether the Bard even existed, tickled that so little was known about the life of a writer he acknowledged as his superior.

"When Shakespeare died in Stratford it was not an event," Twain wrote. "It made no more stir in England than the death of any other forgotten theater actor would have made. Nobody came down from London; there were no lamenting poems, no eulogies, no national tears, there was merely silence, and nothing more."

Twain knew death well and thought closely about it. He told jokes, of course ("the report of my death was an exaggeration"; "there is no humor in heaven"), but also reflected. Death was a challenge ("dying is nothing to a really great and brave man") and a conclusion. It was a relief and a responsibility, especially for the famous.

"A distinguished man should be as particular about his last words as he is about his last breath," he noted. "He should write them out on a slip of paper and take the judgment of his friends on them. He should never leave such a thing to the last hour of his life, and trust to an intellectual spurt at the last moment to enable him to say something smart with his latest gasp and launch into eternity with grandeur."

Twain's final words were brief, abbreviated, unwritten, uncertain. Laying in his death bed, he indicated a couple of unfinished manuscripts and whispered to Paine, his biographer, "Throw away." Hours later, he held the hand of his remaining child, Clare, told her goodbye, and added, apparently, "If we meet ..."

What remained, according to Paine, was a "fluttering sigh, and the breath that had been unceasing through seventy-four tumultuous years had stopped forever."

Alleged Tiger Woods mistress arrested in LA area

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP)—A woman who said she had an affair with Tiger Woods is due in court Thursday after she was arrested on suspicion of driving with a suspended license in West Hollywood.

Jaimee Grubbs was taken into custody Wednesday after a random license plate check

of her 2004 Ford Mustang showed she had three outstanding warrants for driving on a suspended license, Los Angeles County sheriff's Deputy Jeff Gordon said.

Grubbs was issued a new citation after it was determined she was still driving on a suspended license, Gordon said.

Grubbs was released early Thursday morning after posting about \$30,000 bail. She's scheduled to appear at the Beverly Hills courthouse Thursday morning on the outstanding warrants.

Grubbs, a Los Angeles cocktail waitress, told *Us Weekly* she had a 31-month

affair with Woods and had the text messages to prove it. She also provided the magazine with a voice mail she said came from Woods.

The Woods' scandal erupted following a Thanksgiving weekend car crash and allegations that he had trysts with multiple women.

Daniel Radcliffe sings in B'way's 'How to Succeed'



AP

In this July 10, 2009 file photo, actor Daniel Radcliffe poses for a portrait in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Daniel Radcliffe is returning to Broadway, this time to sing and dance.

The star of all those Harry Potter movies will appear in a revival of "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," opening in spring 2011.

Radcliffe will portray the show's unlikely hero, an opportunistic young man who rises from the mail room to the top of the corporate heap in this satiric, Pulitzer Prize-winning

musical. It features a score by Frank Loesser and a book by Abe Burrows, Jack Weinstock and Willie Gilbert.

The show's producers said Thursday the musical will be directed and choreographed by Rob Ashford. First seen on Broadway in 1961 (with Robert Morse in the lead role), "How to Succeed" was revived in 1995 starring Matthew Broderick.

Radcliffe made his Broadway debut in 2008 in a revival of "Equus."

New volume of Murakami novel goes on sale in Japan

TOKYO (AP)—The new volume of Haruki Murakami's novel "1Q84"—the top-selling book in Japan last year—is now on sale.

Publisher Shinchosha said 500,000 copies will hit bookstores Friday. Due to massive orders, the company will print 200,000 more copies by the end of this month.

The first and second volumes of "1Q84" ranked as Japan's top-selling book in

2009, according to publishing distributor Tohan Co. Ltd.

Shinchosha said it has printed a combined 2.44 million copies of the two volumes of "1Q84" since their release in Japan last May.

Murakami's past works include global best-sellers "Norwegian Wood," "Kafka on the Shore" and "The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle." He is considered a top Japanese candidate for the Nobel Prize in literature.

Stepsister may be wicked, but she isn't really a thief

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: My stepsister stole my boyfriend, and I am so mad I am going crazy. She's very attractive and has no problem finding boyfriends. She did not have to do this. I am sure she did it out of spite.

We're both 16, go to the same school and have several classes together, so I can't avoid her. We also have to share a room every other weekend when she's here.

I have so much hate and anger toward her now, I don't know how to deal with it—especially since we have to sleep in the same room. Please give me some advice.

HATES HER IN NEW MEXICO

Dear Abby

DEAR HATES HER: I don't think there is a single woman reading your letter who hasn't felt the same way you do at one time or another in her life. But please let me share a lesson most of us have learned: Short of slipping a man a knock-out drug, he can't be "kidnapped." He is responsible for making his own decisions. Yes, your stepsister might not have discouraged him. She may have even thrown herself at him. But what happened was of his own free will.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I've always been big on birthdays. I love the cake, the candles, the singing and a nice dinner. My husband wasn't a huge fan, but did what he could to please me.

Last year, his father died on my birthday, so naturally, my birthday was the last thing on his mind. Now the one-year anniversary of my father-in-law's death is coming up, and we will be getting together with the family for a memorial service.

I wonder if my birthday will always be clouded by sadness. Is it possible to ever celebrate the day of my birth in a happy manner and without feeling guilty about it?

BIRTHDAY-CONFLICTED IN AUSTIN, TEXAS

DEAR CONFLICTED: Yes, but start next year. Or, if you prefer, by agreeing to a weekend getaway on a date other than your birthday this year.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My daughter was married last weekend and received several unmarked gifts. When sending out thank-you notes, how do you know what to say and to whom? There were several guests that would never have come empty-handed, yet there is no way to match the mystery gifts to the right guests. Not sending a thank-you note to someone I'm sure brought a gift seems awkward and embarrassing.

AT A LOSS IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

DEAR AT A LOSS: For the people whose cards were not included—or were lost—your daughter and/or son-in-law should send generic thank-you letters rather than ones that are specific. They should say something like this: "Dear (—), 'John' (or 'Carol') and I want to thank you for sharing our special day with us. Your presence at such a sacred and meaningful time meant more to us than words can convey. Fondly, (—)."

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am about to sell a business my husband and I opened with an initial investment of \$25,000. We are selling it for \$6 million. Most of my close friends are broke and in the past have "borrowed" money without repaying it.

I don't feel I can tell any of them my good news without them asking for more money. How can I handle this and still keep my friends?

KEEPING MUM IN FLORIDA

DEAR KEEPING MUM: How much you sell the business for is between you, your CPA and the IRS. Period! The way to "handle" it is to keep your personal information private and your mouth shut.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Melissa Etheridge and partner announce separation

NEW YORK (AP)—Rocker Melissa Etheridge and her partner, actress Tammy Lynn Michaels Etheridge, have announced their separation. In a statement Thursday, they asked for "consideration and respect for our family as we go through this difficult period." The two held a commitment ceremony in Malibu, Calif., in 2003. Tammy Etheridge, 35, gave birth to twins—a son, Miller, and a daughter, Johnnie Rose—in 2006. The couple used an anonymous donor from a sperm bank. The 48-year-old singer shares custody of daughter Bailey Jean and son Beckett with former partner Julie Cypher. Musician David Crosby was the sperm donor for the children, who were delivered by Cypher. Melissa Etheridge was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2004.

No more relapses for Eminem, just a 'Recovery'

DETROIT (AP)—Eminem had a relapse in 2009. He was going to have another this year, but his label says he instead

decided to head for recovery. Interscope Records says the Detroit rap superstar's new album, called "Recovery," will be released June 22. It will come out just over a year after his last album, "Relapse," which debuted atop the Billboard Top 200 chart and eventually went platinum. Eminem initially planned to release "Relapse 2" in 2010, but in the record company's Thursday statement he says that as he worked and recorded with new producers, the idea of a sequel made "less and less sense." He says the "music on 'Recovery' came out very different from 'Relapse,'" and that "it deserves its own title."

London museum showcases Grace Kelly's gowns

LONDON (AP)—Dresses that Grace Kelly wore in screen classics such as "High Society" and "Rear Window" are going on show at a London museum. "Grace Kelly: Style Icon" at the Victoria and Albert Museum will display the glamorous wardrobe of the Oscar winning actress-turned-princess. Exhibits include the gown Kelly wore to accept her Oscar in 1955, as well as the outfit she wore to her

first meeting with her husband Prince Rainier III of Monaco later that year. The museum says the exhibition, which opens Saturday, explores the blond screen siren's enduring appeal. The show will trace the evolution of her style as Princess Grace of Monaco, with haute couture gowns by her favorite couturiers Dior, Balenciaga, Givenchy and Yves St Laurent. Kelly died in 1982 at age 52.

Jay-Z vs. David Ortiz in nightclub name lawsuit

NEW YORK (AP)—Jay-Z and a business partner are suing slugger David Ortiz, claiming the Boston Red Sox star named his Dominican nightclub after the mogul's chain of 40/40 clubs. The lawsuit, filed Thursday in Manhattan Federal Court, accuses Ortiz of calling his Santo Domingo club Forty-Forty in the hopes of trading on the rap star's fame. Jay-Z's string of bars can be found in Manhattan, Las Vegas and Atlantic City. Lawyer Peter Raymond tells the New York Daily News that Ortiz had visited the clubs twice and certainly knew about them. The clubs are named after the feat of hitting 40 homers and stealing 40 bases in one season.

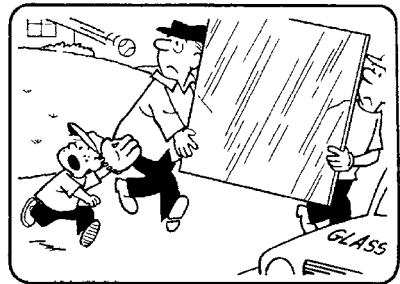
A message seeking comment was left Thursday night with SFX Baseball, the agency that represents Ortiz.

Tenor James Valenti wins Richard Tucker Award

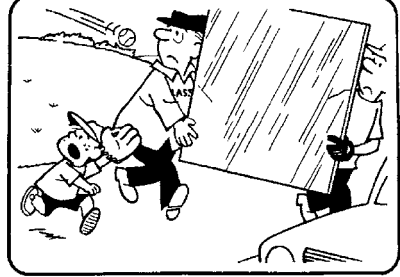
NEW YORK (AP)—Tenor James Valenti has won the Richard Tucker award, given annually to an American singer thought to be on the verge of a major opera career. The 32-year-old from New Jersey made his Metropolitan Opera debut on March 29 as Alfredo in Verdi's "La Traviata." He is to make his Royal Opera debut in July in the same role and his Paris Opera debut in September as Pinkerton in Puccini's "Madama Butterfly." He has appeared as Rodolfo in Puccini's "Lo Boheme" at Milan's Teatro alla Scala, Pinkerton at the San Francisco Opera and Alfredo at the Salzburg Festival in Austria. Last year, he was selected the Dallas Opera's debut artist of the year. Valenti receives a \$30,000 prize. Past winners include Stephanie Blythe, Lawrence Brownlee, David Daniels, Joyce DiDonato, Renee Fleming, Matthew Polenzani and Deborah Voigt.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINGOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



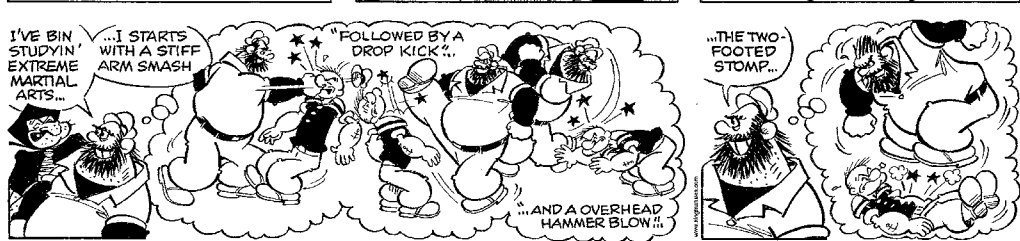
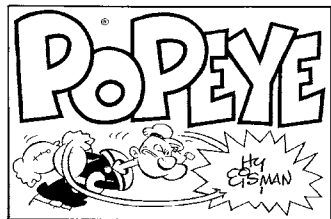
Differences: 1. Word is missing from vehicle. 2. Glove is black. 3. House is missing. 4. Bushes have been added. 5. Letters added to man's shirt. 6. Boy is wearing shorts.

Wishing Well®

7	4	3	7	8	6	8	4	7	4	3	7	3
Y	A	E	O	S	Y	E	L	U	O	X	A	E
5	7	3	2	7	2	6	8	7	4	8	7	5
N	R	R	E	E	T	O	E	A	V	K	P	E
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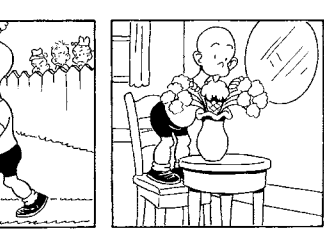
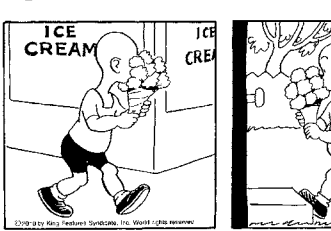
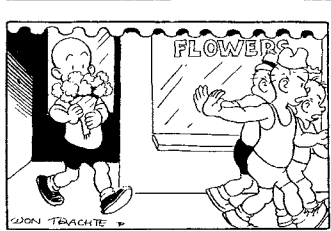
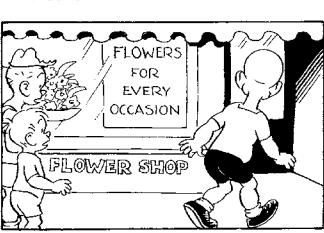
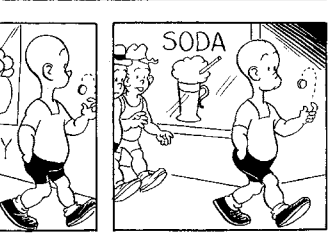
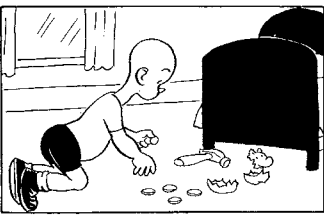
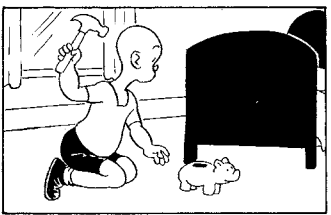
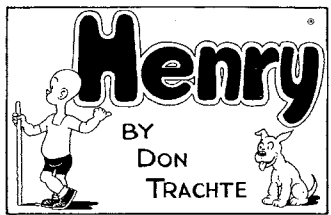
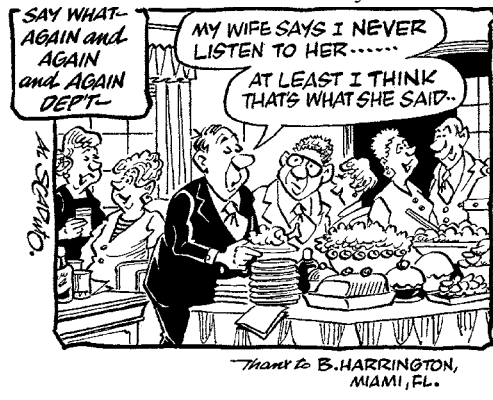
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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They'll Do It Every Time
THE NOT-50-GOOD-
OL' TV DAYS--

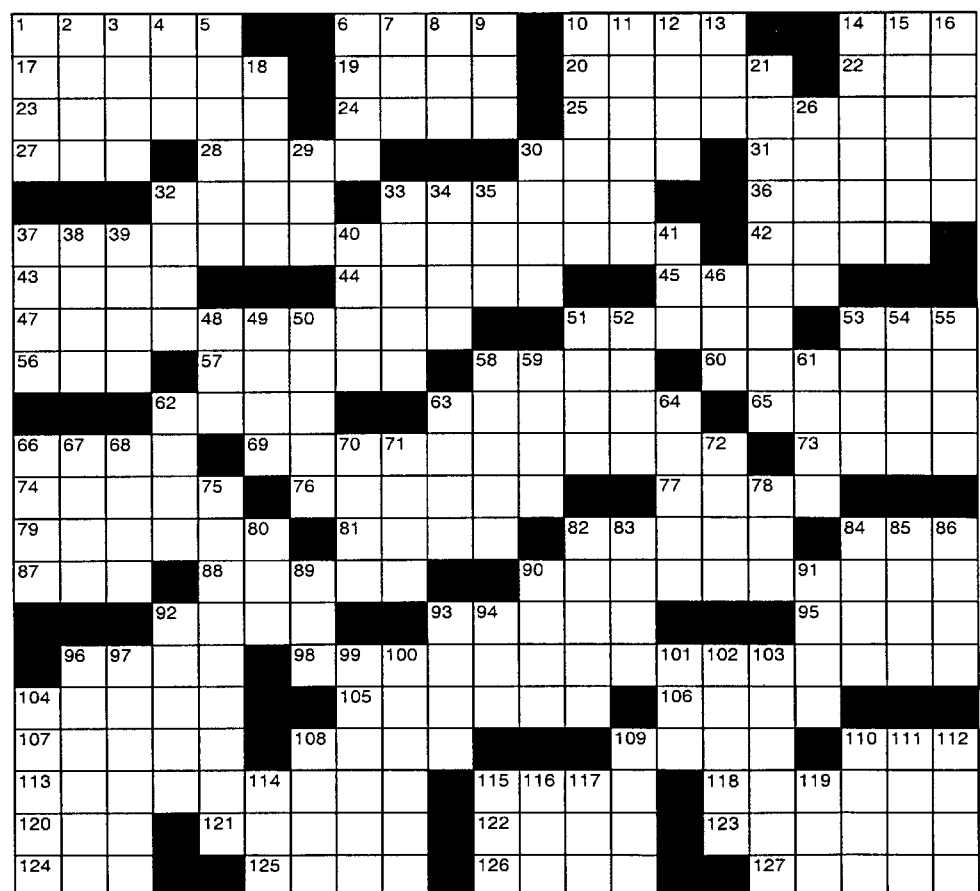
by Al Scaduto



Super Crossword

WHAT A REELIEF!

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bmo bloke
 - 6 "Show" ('94 film)
 - 10 Ferber or O'Brien
 - 14 Hum bug?
 - 17 Buy back
 - 19 Till
 - 20 Approaches
 - 22 -Locka, FL
 - 23 Luanda's land
 - 24 "— fixe"
 - 25 Start of a remark
 - 27 Curly poker?
 - 28 Way out
 - 30 Actress Sorvino
 - 31 Donizetti's "L'elisir d'—"
 - 32 Tizzy
 - 33 French novelist
 - 36 Sell out
 - 37 Part 2 of remark
 - 42 Richard of "Love Me Tender"
 - 43 Wine valley
 - 44 Cabinet wood
 - 45 Pack the freight
 - 47 Upset
 - 51 Panache
 - 53 Weldon or Wray
 - 56 Horatian creation
 - 57 Christened
 - 58 Role for 80 Down
 - 60 Ida of "High Sierra"
 - 62 Wear out the carpet
 - 63 Vaccaro or Lee
 - 65 Barbara's rank
 - 66 Holler
 - 69 Part 3 of remark
 - 73 Sausage segment
 - 74 Knock for — (astonish)
 - 76 Ran amok
 - 77 Dashboard feature
 - 79 Explosive mixture
 - 81 No pleasure trip
 - 82 Complains
 - 84 You can retire on it
 - 87 "Casualties of War" setting
 - 88 Pigeonhole
 - 90 Resilience
 - 92 Carpenter's tool
 - 93 Celebrations
 - 95 "Rule Britannia" composer
 - 96 Unadorned
 - 98 Part 4 of remark
 - 104 Mr. Hiss
 - 105 Paradisiacal
 - 106 Romain de Tiroff
 - 107 Nero's instrument
 - 108 From the top
 - 109 Big rig
 - 110 Deity
 - 113 End of remark
 - 115 George of "Scarface"
 - 118 Journalist Fallaci
 - 120 — Na Na
 - 121 Sharon of Israel
 - 122 Comrade
 - 123 Expire
 - 124 Shorten a skirt
 - 125 Valuable
 - 126 Linen in the beginnin'?
 - 127 Rhythm of life
- DOWN**
- 1 Learn fast?
 - 2 Paradoxical philosopher
 - 3 Maugham's "The Razor's —"
 - 4 Corporate VIP
 - 5 Actress Bonham Carter
 - 6 Pack it in
 - 7 Sturm — Drang
 - 8 "Graph" ending
 - 9 Caldwell or Akins
 - 10 Don a uniform
 - 11 Want
 - 12 Astronauts' agcy.
 - 13 School subject
 - 14 Colombia's capital
 - 15 Screen-writer Nora
 - 16 Consumed
 - 18 Adage
 - 21 Percussion instrument
 - 26 PR concern
 - 29 Robert of "Quincy, M.E."
 - 30 "The Ghost and Mrs. —" ('47 film)
 - 32 Nab a gnat
 - 33 Heaped
 - 34 Funnyman Fogg
 - 35 Be obligated
 - 37 — Euro-pean
 - 38 "You — it!"
 - 39 Chartres part
 - 40 Ming thing
 - 41 Pie — mode
 - 46 Feel awful
 - 48 Genetic info
 - 49 Apiece
 - 50 Daub
 - 51 Ward (off)
 - 52 New Jersey borough
 - 53 Pacific archipelago
 - 54 Shortly
 - 55 Michael of "Cabaret"
 - 58 Stream
 - 59 Expect back
 - 61 Damper
 - 62 Conspire
 - 63 Eight bits
 - 64 Llama turf
 - 66 James of "Brian's Song"
 - 67 — mater
 - 68 Corn Belt soil
 - 70 Core
 - 71 Skin feature
 - 72 Present
 - 75 Cartwright ranch
 - 78 "Just — thought!"
 - 80 Ms. Taylor
 - 82 Mont
 - 83 Relaxation
 - 84 Logroll
 - 85 Sicilian smoker
 - 86 Stained
 - 89 Middling mark
 - 90 Morlocks' prey
 - 91 Rib —
 - 92 Amphitheater feature
 - 93 Expanded
 - 94 Writer Rand
 - 96 "Hail to thee, — spirit!"
 - 97 Massachusetts city
 - 99 Thin covering
 - 100 Swimmer Gertrude
 - 101 Elfin
 - 102 Strong suit
 - 103 Foment
 - 104 Simian
 - 108 Saucony rival
 - 109 Charon's river
 - 110 Sheffield slammer
 - 111 Burden
 - 112 Granola fruit
 - 114 Rink legend
 - 115 Brit. fliers
 - 116 Dryden's "— for Love"
 - 117 Neighbor of Ga.
 - 119 Shiba — (Japanese dog)



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- GEOGRAPHY: In which U.S. state is the top-secret military facility known as Area 51 located?
- MEDICAL TERMS: What is the more common name for a contusion?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of turkeys called?
- COMICS: Who was the Green

- Hornet's sidekick?
5. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first president to fly in an airplane (while in office)?
6. LANGUAGE: What does the Russian term "perestroika" mean?
7. FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: Which
8. ABBREVIATIONS: What does the abbreviation "D.D.S." stand for, professionally speaking?
9. ARCHITECTURE: Who designed the pyramidal addition to
10. MATH: What is the Arabic equivalent of the Roman numeral DXC?
11. ENTERTAINMENT: What is the Louvre Museum in Paris?

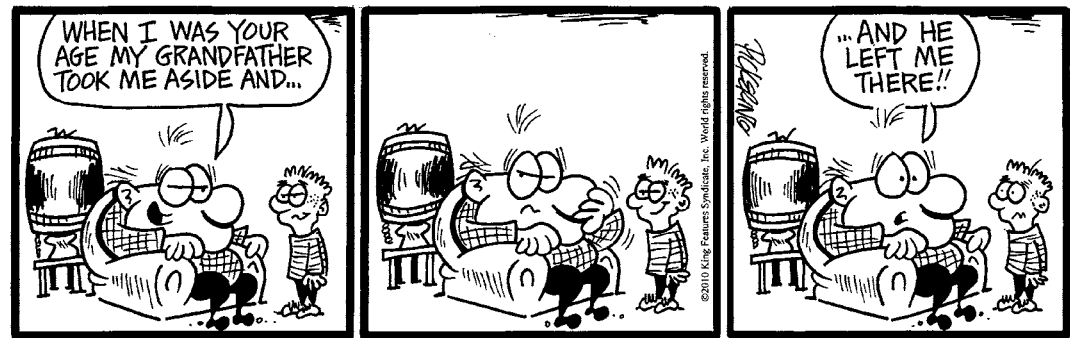
Saturday's Answers

1. Nevada	2. A bruise	3. A rafter	4. Kato	5. Franklin Delano Roosevelt
6. Restructuring	7. Will Rogers	8. Doctor of dental surgery	9. I.M. Pei	10. 590

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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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Cavs, Magic, Lakers seem best, but threats abound

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**
AP BASKETBALL WRITER



Maybe Kobe Bryant is too beaten up to last through three playoff rounds against the rest of the West.

Perhaps the aging Boston Celtics do have one more run in them, or the Atlanta Hawks are ready to take the next step.

Sure, it's easy to think this year's NBA champion will be LeBron James and Cleveland, Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers, or the Orlando Magic.

Just don't tell that to all the other teams believing the trio can be knocked off.

"I don't think anybody is afraid of anybody," Dallas owner Mark Cuban said. "We think we can beat anybody and anybody thinks they can beat us. That's how good the teams are."

The best during the regular season were the Cavaliers, but they were last season, too. All that got them was a trip to Orlando, where the Magic ended their season in the conference finals, and James picked up a \$25,000 fine for not talking to the media after the loss.

But with a bolstered front line that now features Shaquille O'Neal and Antawn Jamison alongside James, there may not be anything that can stop the Cavaliers this time.

"Dan Gilbert, Danny Ferry went out and got the pieces that I feel should help us against the bigger teams that we'll be going against," Cleveland coach Mike Brown.

"We still have a long way to go. It's going to be tough for us, because we're going to face a lot of different types of teams on this run, hopefully. We'll see how we pan out after we get started."

That comes Saturday, when the Cavaliers open against the Chicago Bulls, who earned the NBA's final playoff spot on the last night of the regular season. Also Saturday, Milwaukee vis-

its Atlanta; Boston hosts Miami and Utah visits Denver.

On Sunday, it's playoff newcomer Oklahoma City at the Lakers; Orlando hosting Charlotte, another first-time postseason team; San Antonio visiting Dallas; and Phoenix entertaining Portland.

The Suns, who missed the playoffs last year but rode a late-season surge to the No. 3 seed in the West this year, are another team that could spoil one of the presumed finals matchups.

"I don't know if you start matching us up with all the teams in the league how talented we are, but I think as a collective group we're pretty doggone good," Suns coach Alvin Gentry said.

All eight playoff teams in the West won 50 games, the second time that happened in three years. Still, the Lakers probably stand out as the class of the conference - when their health allows it.

"The West is wide open. A lot of great teams out there," Dallas forward Dirk Nowitzki said. "The Lakers, if they're healthy with (Andrew) Bynum and everybody, I think they're still the favorites, but everybody else is kind of bunched up and on the same level. Anything is possible."

Bynum, the Lakers' starting center, missed the last 13 games with a strained left Achilles' tendon. Bryant missed four of the last five games with a series of injuries, most notably a broken right index finger that caused him to shoot awfully in April.

"He's going to be just fine," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "How we play together as a team is really the critical element of playing in the playoffs."

Yet health is always an issue come playoff time, and a pair of the league's oldest teams insist they have it. Tim Duncan, Manu Ginobili and Tony Parker are all ready to go for the Spurs, giving them reason to think they can avenge last season's first-round loss to the Southwest Division champion Mavericks.

"We're playing better than we have all year long, there's no



In this Jan. 10, 2010 photo, Cleveland Cavaliers forward James LeBron, right, and center Shaquille O'Neal are shown during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Portland Trail Blazers in Portland, Ore.

NBA BRIEFS

76ers fire coach Jordan after 1 season

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Eddie Jordan and his Princeton offense were a flop in Philadelphia. Team president and general manager Ed Stefanski fired Jordan on Thursday after one season as coach, saying the Sixers took an "unacceptable" step backward after two straight seasons in the playoffs. "What I thought would happen, did not occur," Stefanski said. "The decision was not the right one." Jordan is finished after a woefully underachieving season that had the Sixers near the bottom of the Eastern Conference. Jordan was hired last summer and sold his Princeton offense as the way to turn them into contenders. Instead, players were unhappy with his system almost from the start and the Sixers struggled to put together any kind of winning streaks. The Sixers finished 27-55 and missed the playoffs for the first time in three years. The Sixers will look for their fourth coach in three seasons. Stefanski, who's been under fire for a series of ill-fated decisions, said he still has management's support and will hire the next coach. "We're not starting over," Stefanski said. "We took a step backward." Stefanski hired Jordan last May. Jordan, who starred at Rutgers, had ties with Stefanski from

their four seasons together with the New Jersey Nets. Jordan, who was fired last season by Washington, has two years left on his contract and is owed \$6 million.

Clippers fire Kim Hughes as interim head coach

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Clippers wasted no time making their first offseason change, firing interim head coach Kim Hughes on Thursday in the team's third major shake-up in 2 1/2 months. The team said on its Web site that Hughes had been dismissed and the search for a new coach was already under way, although there were no leading candidates. Hughes took over as interim coach for Mike Dunleavy on Feb. 4 after seven seasons as an assistant and went 8-25 the rest of the way. The Clippers ended another losing season Wednesday night with a 107-91 victory over the playoff-bound Lakers. The Clippers finished with a 29-53 record, missing the playoffs for the 15th time in 17 years. They were 8-33 on the road, their worst mark away from home since 1999-2000, when they went 5-36. Hughes' tenure began with a five-game losing streak. There were skids of eight and seven games, too. His contract was to expire June 30.

doubt about that," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "Whether that's good enough to do anything of note in the playoffs, we'll see.

But we're very thankful we're playing our best basketball now."

The Celtics aren't, dropping seven of their final 10 to tum-

ble to the No. 4 seed. But with Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce and Ray Allen all playing, the 2008 champions insist they will look

much sharper in the postseason than they did over the second half of the regular season.

And they'd better, with Dwyane Wade and the Heat looming as a dangerous opening opponent.

"It's going to be a tough series," Miami forward Quentin Richardson said. "We're going to be ready. We'll never be intimidated by anyone. We just look at them as a very good, veteran team. They have some good players. It's going to be a good series and I'm pretty excited about it."

The Lakers, who beat the Magic last year in five games, are bidding to become the first team with three consecutive trips to the finals since O'Neal and Bryant led them to three straight championships from 2000-02.

But every round could be a difficult for team that played so fluidly early on but dropped six of its final 10. They were beaten badly the last time they played the Thunder, who are led by Kevin Durant, who averaged 30.1 points to become the NBA's youngest scoring champion. Bryant was fourth with 27 points per game.

"A lot of people don't know that we probably won't be guarding each other for the majority of the games," Durant said. "It's not going to be KD versus Kobe. I'm sure he really doesn't think like that and I don't think like that. It's the Thunder versus the Lakers."

"Of course, fans want to get into the 1-on-1 matchups but it's far from that. It's all about team basketball and getting wins any way you can."

The Cavs think it's their year to get the most. Orlando believes it can stop them again.

One of them probably faces the Lakers for the title.

LeBron vs. Kobe, or an NBA finals rematch. Three great teams, two good story lines.

And plenty of teams trying to wreck it.

"I think every series," Cuban said, "from 1 to 8 on through, is pretty much a pick-it."

Choi keeps up stellar play

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. (AP)—K.J. Choi kept up his stellar golf, even without Tiger Woods in his group.

Choi played with the world's No. 1 golfer all four rounds of last week's Masters but showed no signs of a hangover on Thursday, when he shot a 7-under 64 to take a two-stroke lead at the Verizon Heritage.

Mike Weir and Greg Owen were next at 66, then came a large group at 67 that included Jim Furyk, Sergio Garcia and five-time Verizon winner Davis Love III.

Choi tied Woods for fourth at Augusta National, finishing five shots behind champion Phil Mickelson.

Most of golf's best, including Mickelson and Woods, are resting after last week's major.

Not Choi, who wasn't ready to end a roll that includes second- and fourth-place finishes over his past three tournaments.

"Yeah, the aura, the atmosphere is a little different" than last week, a grinning Choi said through his interpreter and manager, Michael Yim. "But when you step on the tee box in the first hole, you still get that competitive pressure."

No one competed better at Harbour Town than Choi.

He used a stretch of three birdies over four holes on the front nine to take the lead, then had a similar run on the back to separate from a crowded pack and finish with his lowest score this season. Choi rolled in a 30-footer for birdie on the 13th to catch Jerry Kelly and Love. He closed his charge by putting his approach to 2 feet on the 16th for a birdie.

Choi, who turns 40 next month, said he reveled in every Masters moment with Woods last week and it helped him improve his patience and focus.

"I think that is only going to

help me more, and I'm thankful for the experience I had with Tiger," he said.

It was Choi's best-ever showing at Harbour Town. Then again, he'd only played here once before, missing the cut in 2001.

Most years, the native of South Korea is at his home in Texas recuperating after the Masters' grind. This time, Choi feels so good about his game—his 69.25 scoring average is second to Anthony Kim—he didn't want to take a break.

"I've been playing good and I guess I wanted to keep the rhythm going," he said. "And now that I'm here and I see the reactions of the gallery, the sponsors, I feel a lot of support here."

Weir discovered that, too. The 2003 Masters champion had only played the Heritage

in 1999, the last year he hadn't qualified for Augusta. But Weir is missing events this summer because of family celebrations—he and wife Bricia's 40th birthdays; his brother's 50th; and his parents' 50th wedding anniversary—and needed earlier tournaments.

"I forgot how narrow (Harbour Town) is, how tight some of the pin positions are, and how precise you have to be on a certain number of shots," he said. "So that usually suits my game."

Weir had an eagle on the par-4 first hole, converting an 8-iron from 144 yards away. He moved within a shot of Choi with consecutive birdies on the fourth and fifth holes before a bogey on the seventh—Weir began his round on the 10th hole—dropped him to two back.

Owen has missed five cuts this season and withdrew from his last event, the Houston Open. Still, he shot his lowest round in more than two months.

Love always seems to be on top of the leaderboard here. Besides those five victories, he's the event's career money winner with more than \$2.6 million and has had 44 rounds in the 60s since his first teed it up here in 1986.

The day's déjà vu moment belonged to Kelly, who aced the par-3 fourth hole for the second time here since 2007.

"Same club, too," Kelly said of his 4-iron.

He becomes just the third PGA Tour pro since 1983—Joe Ozaki and Craig Stadler are the others—to ace the same hole twice in tournament play.

verizon
Heritage



Huff pitches complete game, Indians top Texas



CLEVELAND

(AP)—David Huff pitched a complete game and Choo Shin-soo hit a three-run homer in the eighth as Cleveland ended a five-game losing streak with a 3-2 win over the Texas Rangers in the American League on Thursday.

Texas starter Matt Harrison (0-1) had a shutout through seven innings before Asdrubal Cabrera reached on an error by third baseman Michael Young to start the eighth. Grady Sizemore followed with a ground ball to second, but the runners were safe when shortstop Elvis Andrus dropped the throw.

Choo then hit a pitch into the seats in right-center, spoiling what had been a pitcher's duel between a pair of young left-handers. Huff (1-1) allowed only four hits, including a two-run homer by Young.

Twins 8, Red Sox 0

At Minneapolis, Francisco Liriano threw seven shutout innings as Minnesota took the first series at new Target Field against a sloppy Boston.

Every Twins starter had a hit except batting champ Joe Mauer. Denard Span turned two of Tim Wakefield's knuckleballs into RBI doubles and Michael Cud-dyer homered and drove in three runs.

Liriano (1-0) scattered four hits and walked two while striking out eight.

Wakefield, 14-6 lifetime against the Twins, took the loss.

Yankees 6, Angels 2

At New York, Curtis Granderson hit two triples and threw Hideki Matsui out at the plate and Robinson Cano homered twice, leading the New York Yankees over the Los Angeles Angels.

Derek Jeter homered and had an RBI double for the Yankees. The World Series champions have opened the season by winning a series against three potent rivals—Boston, Tampa Bay and the Angels.

Phil Hughes (1-0) labored through five-plus innings. The Angels dropped to 3-7 for their worst start since 2002, the year they won their only championship.

After helping present a bouquet of flowers to Jackie Robinson's widow, Rachel, during a ceremony commemorating the 63rd anniversary of the Brooklyn Hall of Famer breaking baseball's color barrier, Cano also delivered at the plate.

Cano connected twice off Scott Kazmir, activated from the disabled list



Texas Rangers catcher Taylor Teagarden, right, crashes to the ground after a collision at the plate with Cleveland Indians' Travis Hafner in the sixth inning of a baseball game Monday, April 12, 2010, in Cleveland.

before the game to make his first appearance of the season.

Matsui homered in the second. A fan favorite in his seven years in the Bronx, last year's World Series MVP got a rare—if not unheard of—salute from the crowd of 44,722: a standing ovation for a visiting home run.

Blue Jays 7, White Sox 3

At Toronto, Dana Eveland pitched six innings and Travis Snider homered and the Blue Jays.

Alex Gonzalez matched a career high with four hits and had three RBIs as the Blue Jays improved to 7-3.

One night after a stadium-low crowd of 10,610 watched an 11-1 loss, attendance rose slightly to 10,744 for the series finale.

Eveland (2-0), who pitched 7 1-3 scoreless innings against Baltimore on April 10, followed that with a solid outing against the White Sox, allowing two runs and three hits in six-plus innings.

Freddy Garcia (0-2) allowed seven runs and eight hits in three-plus innings.

Athletics 6, Orioles 2

At Oakland, Ben Sheets, who missed all of 2009 recovering from elbow surgery, pitched six scoreless innings and made good for the first time on general manager Billy Beane's bold offseason move of giving him \$10 million for a

year to be the A's new ace.

Beane believed Sheets could return to the form that has made him a four-time All-Star.

The 31-year-old right-hander gave up five hits, struck out four and walked three to win for the first time since a five-hit shutout of San Diego on Sept. 6, 2008, while with Milwaukee.

Astros 5, Cardinals 1

At St. Louis, the Houston Astros avoided matching the worst start in their history, stopping an eight-game losing streak with their first win over the St. Louis Cardinals in the National League.

The Astros were the only winless team left in Major League Baseball and came close to tying the team's 0-9 opening in 1983.

Bud Norris struck out a career-high nine and held the Cardinals without an earned run for five innings. He also got his first career RBI to put the Astros ahead for good in the third.

Brewers 8, Cubs 6

At Chicago, Rickie Weeks hit a tie-breaking single in the seventh inning and Trevor Hoffman protected a late lead for Milwaukee.

Ryan Braun and Casey McGehee each homered and drove in three runs as the Brewers avoided being swept by Chicago. The Brewers overcame home

runs by Derrek Lee, Marlon Byrd and Aramis Ramirez.

Hoffman, who had blown his two previous save opportunities, allowed one run in the ninth for his third save this season and record 594th of his career.

Mets 5, Rockies 0

At Denver, Mike Pelfrey pitched seven solid innings and hit an RBI single to help New York win and avert a series sweep.

Pelfrey allowed five hits, struck out six and walked none as the Mets ended a four-game skid. Only two of Colorado's hits got out of the infield.

Rockies starter Jorge De La Rosa, whose 17 wins since June 1 are the most in the majors, struggled with his control while allowing five runs and eight hits over six innings. He walked five and threw two wild pitches that led to a pair of runs.

Nationals 7, Phillies 5

At Philadelphia, pinch-hitter Ryan Zimmerman hit a go-ahead, two-run homer off Danys Baez in the eighth inning for Washington to rally past Philadelphia.

Adam Dunn also connected for the Nationals, who stopped Philadelphia's five-game winning streak.

Chase Utley hit his fourth homer in three games and Shane Victorino also went deep for the Phillies.

Marlins 10, Reds 2

At Miami, Jorge Cantu extended his major league season-opening record to 10 games with a hit and an RBI, while Josh Johnson struck out 10 in six innings as the Florida Marlins salvaged a four-game series split by beating the Cincinnati Reds.

Cody Ross was 3 for 5 with two doubles and three RBIs for the Marlins, who led 8-1 after five innings. Cameron Maybin hit his first home run of the season for Florida, part of a three-hit night.

Before Cantu's run to open 2010, the previous major league record for having at least one hit and one RBI in every game to start the season had been eight, set back in 1921 by George Kelly of the New York Giants, a year after RBIs became an official statistic.

Johnson allowed five hits in six innings and missed tying a career high by one strikeout. Aaron Harang got into big trouble in the fifth, thanks in part to a wild pitch.

Braves 6, Padres 2

At San Diego, Jason Heyward drove in two runs on a pair of doubles and Martin Prado homered to help the Atlanta Braves win and take two of three from the Padres.

Leading 3-2, the Braves gave themselves a cushion with three straight run-scoring hits with two outs in the eighth. Yunel Escobar singled, Heyward doubled into the left-center gap and pinch-hitter Eric Hinske singled.

Tim Hudson (1-0) held the Padres scoreless on three hits through five innings before the Padres broke through in the sixth. Prado's homer came off Mat Latos.

Dodgers 6, Diamondbacks 5, 10 innings

At Los Angeles, Stephen Drew's crazy throw over the first-base dugout allowed Los Angeles to score the tying run and Andre Ethier got another game-winning hit to give the Dodgers a narrow win over Arizona.

Arizona closer Chad Qualls blew a save for the second straight night, with help from the shortstop's gaffe. He charged Casey Blake's slow bouncer and the ball appeared to slip, flying from his hand and into the seats.

Ethier, who drove a pitch from Blaine Boyer over the head of drawn-in outfielders to win it, had six winning hits last year. Jonathan Broxton pitched a perfect 10th.

Ben Roethlisberger accused says she told him 'no'



MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga.

(AP)—The young woman who accused Ben Roethlisberger of sexual assault said she tried to get away from the Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback and told him "no, this is not OK," according to police documents released Thursday.

In a statement to police on March 5, the 20-year-old college student said Roethlisberger encouraged her, and her friends, to take numerous shots of alcohol. Then one of his bodyguards escorted her into a hallway at the Capital City nightclub, sat her on a stool and left. She said Roethlisberger walked down the hallway and exposed himself.

"I told him it wasn't ok, no, we don't need to do this and I proceeded to get

up and try to leave," she said. "I went to the first door I saw, which happened to be a bathroom."

According to her statement, Roethlisberger then followed her into the bathroom and shut the door.

"I still said no, this is not OK, and he then had sex with me," she wrote. "He said it was OK. He then left without saying anything."

The woman's statements were among hundreds of pages of the case file made public Thursday by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

Two of her friends said they saw a bodyguard lead her into the hallway and then saw Roethlisberger follow. They said they couldn't see their friend but knew she was drunk and were worried about her.

Ann Marie Lubatti told police she approached one of Roethlisberger's two bodyguards and said, "This isn't right. My friend is back there with Ben. She needs to come back right now."

She said the bodyguard wouldn't look her in the eye and said he didn't know what she was talking about. The GBI later identified that bodyguard as Ed Joyner, and the GBI also determined that the man who led Roethlisberger's accuser down the hallway was Anthony Barravecchio. Joyner is a Pennsylvania trooper and Barravecchio is an officer on the force in the Pittsburgh suburb of Coraopolis.

Attorney Michael Santicola, who represents Barravecchio but said Joyner also is a longtime friend, confirmed on March 10 that the two of-

ficers were present, but not in an official capacity. He said the two men are friends with Roethlisberger and did not witness any criminal activity or inappropriate behavior. He said the officers "have no memory" of meeting his accuser.

Lt. Myra A. Taylor, a spokeswoman for Pennsylvania State Police, said Thursday night the agency is getting a copy of the investigative report from Georgia authorities. "We will thoroughly review the report and determine if there is a violation of Department regulations on the part of Trooper Edward Joyner," she said.

Earlier this week, prosecutors said no charges would be filed against Roethlisberger, who has denied the accusations through his attorney. Oc-

mulgee Circuit District Attorney Fred Bright said Monday the woman's accusations could not be proven beyond a reasonable doubt and that the woman had asked him not to pursue the case. Roethlisberger also is being sued in civil court by a former Nevada hotel employee for an alleged sexual assault in 2008. No criminal charges were filed in that case.

According to the investigators' summary of events, Roethlisberger friend Brad Aurila had a conversation with the quarterback when they returned to his house that night and asked him why police showed up at the nightclub. In an interview with police, Aurila said Roethlisberger told him nothing had happened and that he "was in the back with a girl and they were 'messaging around.'" Aurila said he "took 'messaging around' to mean 'kissing, whatever.'"

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA LEADERS

SCORING

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, OKC	82	794	756	2472	30.1
James, CLE	76	768	593	2258	29.7
Anthony, DEN	69	688	508	1943	28.2
Bryant, LAL	73	716	439	1970	27.0
Wade, MIA	77	719	534	2045	26.6
Ellis, GOL	64	631	292	1631	25.5
Nowitzki, DAL	81	720	536	2027	25.0
Granger, IND	62	488	363	1497	24.1
Bosh, TOR	70	600	470	1678	24.0
Stoudemire, PHX	82	704	487	1896	23.1
Johnson, ATL	76	635	220	1619	21.3
Rose, CHI	78	672	259	1619	20.8
Randolph, MEM	81	652	362	1681	20.8
Jackson, CHA	81	600	338	1667	20.6
Lee, NYK	81	686	268	1640	20.2
Evans, SAC	72	533	348	1450	20.1
Maggette, GOL	70	457	460	1387	19.8
Gay, MEM	80	600	301	1567	19.6
Brooks, HOU	82	575	245	1604	19.6
Billups, DEN	73	402	466	1427	19.5

REBOUNDS

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	82	284	798	1082	13.2
Camby, POR	74	249	622	871	11.8
Randolph, MEM	81	330	620	950	11.7
Lee, NYK	81	228	721	949	11.7
Boozer, UTA	78	181	693	874	11.2
Bosh, TOR	70	205	554	759	10.8
Murphy, IND	72	129	608	737	10.2
Duncan, SAN	78	221	567	788	10.1
Wallace, CHA	76	150	612	762	10.0
Horford, ATL	81	236	563	799	9.9

ASSISTS

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, PHX	81	892	11.0
Paul, NOR	45	480	10.7
Williams, UTA	76	798	10.5
Rondo, BOS	81	794	9.8
Kidd, DAL	80	724	9.1
James, CLE	76	651	8.6
Davis, LAC	75	598	8.0
Westbrook, OKC	82	652	8.0
Harris, NJN	64	423	6.6
Wade, MIA	77	501	6.5

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	7	3	.700	—
New York	6	3	.667	1/2
Tampa Bay	6	3	.667	1/2
Boston	4	5	.444	2 1/2
Baltimore	1	9	.100	6

Central Division

Minnesota	7	3	.700	—
Detroit	6	3	.667	1/2
Kansas City	4	5	.444	2 1/2
Chicago	4	6	.400	3
Cleveland	3	6	.333	3 1/2

West Division

Oakland	7	4	.636	—
Texas	5	4	.556	1
Seattle	4	6	.400	2 1/2
Los Angeles	3	7	.300	3 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	7	2	.778	—
Florida	6	4	.600	1 1/2
Atlanta	5	4	.556	2
Washington	4	5	.444	3
New York	3	6	.333	4

Central Division

St. Louis	6	3	.667	—
Cincinnati	5	5	.500	1 1/2
Chicago	4	5	.444	2
Milwaukee	4	5	.444	2
Pittsburgh	4	5	.444	2
Houston	1	8	.111	5

West Division

San Francisco	7	2	.778	—
Arizona	5	4	.556	2
Colorado	5	4	.556	2
Los Angeles	4	5	.444	3
San Diego	3	6	.333	4

Yesterday's Games

Houston 5, St. Louis 1
Milwaukee 8, Chicago Cubs 6
Washington 7, Philadelphia 5
N.Y. Mets 5, Colorado 0
Atlanta 6, San Diego 2
Florida 10, Cincinnati 2
L.A. Dodgers 6, Arizona 5, 10 innings
Cleveland 3, Texas 2
Minnesota 8, Boston 0
N.Y. Yankees 6, L.A. Angels 2
Toronto 7, Chicago White Sox 3
Oakland 6, Baltimore 2

LOCAL SCORES

NMIFA MEN'S STANDINGS

Team	MP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
MP United FC	4	3	1	0	18	3	15	10
K. Seniors	5	4	0	1	13	9	4	12
Wild Bills	5	3	1	1	12	7	5	10
Inter Godfathers	4	2	1	1	8	4	4	7
Matansa FC	4	1	1	2	5	8	-3	4
Tan Holdings FC	4	1	0	3	6	13	-7	3
K. Juniors	4	1	0	3	3	11	-8	3
Young Guns	4	0	0	4	4	12	-8	0



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joe Wabol topped Refaluwasch Golf Association's April Ace of the Month qualifier held last April 10 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

Taylor rallies to win Mother's Day qualifier



Taylor Watanabe locked up the sixth spot in USS Peleliu Club's Mother's Day 8-Ball Tournament by coming back through the loser's bracket to win last Sunday's qualifier.

Qualifying tournaments are held every Thursday and Sunday, with the 13 winners and three runners-up with the most points earning slots in the May 9 championship. There is no entry fee. First place is good for \$100, with \$50 for second. There will

Joe Wabol tops April qualifier



the field that played at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

Wabol registered the lowest net score of the day with his 73 after the 23-handicapper carded a 46 in the front nine before closing with a 47 in the back nine for a gross of 93.

Finishing second in the qualifier

was Bae Young Man who edged Tony Rogolifoi on a tiebreak based on the front nine score. Bae and Rogolifoi hired identical scores of 74.

A total of 17 golfers took part in the April qualifier. The rest of the field, with their net scores in parenthesis, were as follows: Jess Wabol (76); Joe Saures (76); Tom Tebuteb (77); Diwain Stephens (78); Jordon Kosam (78); Tars Olapai (79); Asterio Tawanpiy (81); Ulyses Kapileo (84); Jess Se-man (85); Manny Mangarero (87); and Nick Leon Guerrero (91).

In the closest to the pin competition, Mangarero was without peer in hole No. 3, while Saures was the winner in hole No. 13. *(Saipan Tribune)*

April tourney set tomorrow



The Fil-Taga Golf Association will hold its April Ace of the Month tournament tomorrow, April 18, at the Coral

Ocean Point Golf Resort. According to tournament director Ted Malaran, check-in time for the weekend event is 11am with tee time set 30 minutes later at 11:30am at the Koblerville golf venue.

Established in 1993, Fil-Taga's tournaments operate under a computer-controlled handicap system that creates parity among players in the A and B Flights.

A Fil-Taga Ace of the Month champion is crowned monthly. Regular tournaments are scheduled once a month, normally every third Sunday. Green fees are in the \$35 to \$40 price range for most tournaments. *(Saipan Tribune)*

DOLPHINS

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3:28.40 and 3:29.44, respectively, while Kagman was last anew with a time of 3:46.17.

In the girls division, the Lady Dolphins submitted 3:19.45 in the 500m preliminary race and were faster in the finals at 3:16.53 to rule both races. Southern was second in the preliminary

with its 3:22.69 against Mt. Carmel's 3:31.88. However, the Lady Knights grabbed the second place in the finals, clocking in at 3:28.40 against the Lady Rays' 3:29.44.

In the 1,00m race, the Lady Dolphins, who clocked at 7:11.87 in the preliminary race had a better time in the finals at 7:08.84, beating Southern (7:16.07/7:11.89), Mt. Carmel (7:50.30/7:20.77), and Kagman (8:05.35/7:50.94).

K SENIORS

From Page 28

ever, Wild Bill's failed to neutralize Wook, who logged his third goal two minutes after Elliot scored.

Wild Bill's dropped to third place after absorbing its first loss in five games.

K. Juniors 3, Young Guns 1

In the second game, K. Juniors finally

broke into the win column after downing the Young Guns, 3-1.

The victory lifted K. Juniors out of the bottom of the team standings as they now have a 1-0-3 win-draw-loss record against the new cellar dwellers Young Guns' 0-0-4 mark.

K. Juniors drew twin goals from Kim Min Sung and one from Woo Hyun Woo to top the Young Guns, who scored only once, courtesy of Don Cabrera's goal in the 19th minute.

Sung scored first, making his first goal

The Lady Rays are the defending champion in the girls division after earning 83 points in last year's races. The Lady Dolphins were second (76), followed by the Lady Knights (13) and Lady Ayuyus (12). In the boys division, MCS finished first last year with 78 points, followed by Southern (69), MHS (47), and KHS (13).

Points were awarded in both preliminary and finals races. In the preliminary races, 10 points are given to

first placers, 6 to second, 4 to third, and none to fourth. In the finals, the winner gets 20, 12 to runner-up, eight to third, and none to last.

Today's races will have the 500m and 1,500m events. The next race on April 24 will be the 6-mile event. On May 1, another no-point race will be held, featuring a co-ed competition. The last part of the series of races on May 8 will award double points to winners in the 500m and 1,500m events.

in the 11th minute before Cabrera tied the game with his own goal. Sung put K. Juniors in the lead, 2-1, with his second goal in the 27th minute and the team hung on to the driver's seat at the break.

Ten minutes before the regulation ended, K. Juniors made it a 3-1 tally after Woo logged his first goal in the game.

MP United 1, Inter Godfather's 1

The league-leading MP United failed to extend its winning run to four after

a 1-1 draw against Inter Godfather's in the third match of the day.

MP United's lone goal in the game came from Yukiomi Adachi, who scored in the 23rd minute. MP United kept the lead at the break, as Inter Godfather's bungled several chances to score.

Inter finally hit one in the 65th minute on Matthew Holley's goal to tie the game and eventually forced a draw. It was Inter Godfather's first draw in four matches.

CNMI

From Page 28

pionships will be crucial, as points are at stake in the tournament. The Commonwealth's junior tennis players would want to earn as many points to make it to the CNMI Team that will compete in the North Pacific Qualifying Tournament against Palau, Guam, and FSM.

In the past years, the composition of the team was announced a few weeks after the junior championships, as the NPQ is played every June. After the NPQ, those selected will be flying

to Fiji for the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships and battle the best junior players in the region.

In last year's junior championship, favored Ji Hoon Heo and Thea Minor won the 18-and-under crown. This year, Minor is picked again to win the oldest age group against Jodel Fernandez, sister Theecel Minor, Jeane Bracken, Lila Mailman, and Melody Johnson, who won last year's 14-and-under crown.

Rafael Jones took the boys' 14-and-under title in 2009, but had already moved up to 18-and-under this year. Heo is in Brisbane, Australia, and will miss the tournament, leaving Jones,

Christian Miller, Lucas, Nathan, and Andy Nutting, Matthew Lopez, and Tinian's Benjie Decena to battle for the 18-and-under plum.

In the boys' 14-and-under, the odds are on Jake Lee, who prevailed in an age group tournament a few weeks ago. Joining him in the 14-and-under age group are Carl Dela Cruz, Kennedy Izuka, Daniel Park, Chris Cajigan, Chris Park, Angelo Jones, Quintin Ramsey, Dylan Ackerman, and Clay McCullough-Stearns.

Mikayla Lopez had won several girls 14-and-under crown in the past and is heavily favored against Negahr

Rastguiy, Emily Jones, Gabrielle Race, Adelle Hudkins, Amy Arenovski, and Ilia Corella.

The 10-and-under age groups will be an open race, as last year's defending champions—dela Cruz and Emily Jones—had already moved up to a higher age group.

This year's junior championships are being supported by Java Joe's, Delta Management Corp., Law Offices of Stephen J. Nutting, Deepstar Submarine, Tan Holdings, Marianas Medical Center, Island Apparel, Tano Group Inc., Marianas Trekking, Lee's Office, Spectrum Electric Inc., and Aces Tennis Academy.

Smiling Cove Marina that evening.

St. Andrew took first place in the derby, garnering the heaviest catch of the day. Captain John Roberto and anglers Steve Reyes and Phil Roberto hauled in a 25.40-lb. mahi-mahi to bring home the top prize of \$1,000 cash, a plaque, and in-kind prizes from event sponsors.

In an interesting twist, vessels *Carmelita* and *St. Patrick* brought in mahi-mahis with identical weights of 19.90 lbs.

In a tiebreaker based on the time the

boats returned to Smiling Cove Marina, the second place finish was awarded to skipper Judge Alex Castro and anglers Alex Castro Jr. and Salvador Koshiro of the *Carmelita*.

Settling for third place was last year's derby winner *St. Patrick*, captained by Manding Legaspi and with anglers Tony Maestro and Dodong Salinas.

My Lady Gora came in fourth place with a 19.45-lb. catch, while fifth place went to *Sea Ray*, skippered by Alvin P.

Iglesias for his 18.90-lb. fish. Fourth and fifth place winners received plaques, cellular phones and in-kind prizes from event sponsors.

Next up on SFA's calendar is the 26th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament on July 17 and 18.

For more information about the upcoming tournament or any SFA events, contact MVA's Frank Tudela at 664-3200/01 or send inquiries to ftudela@mymarianas.com. *(PR)*

Cavs, Magic, Lakers seem best, but threats abound
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28 SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2010

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Dolphins favored in first point canoe races



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The MHS boys canoe team leads Mt. Carmel School in the 500m event during the MISO high school canoe warm-up race last Saturday in the waters off Kilili Park.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Marianas High School canoe squad will be the team to watch in today's first point race in the MISO high school canoe tournament in the waters

off Kilili Park, following the Dolphins' impressive showing in last weekend's warm-up events.

MHS ruled the girls and boys preliminary round and finals in the 500m and 1,000m events in the warm-up races last Saturday. However, no points were awarded to the Dolphins,

as MISO will only give points in today's races and in the two of the three remaining weekend events.

Last weekend, the MHS boys team timed in at six minutes, 14.96 seconds in the preliminary race in the 1,000m, beating Mt. Carmel School (6:39.87), Kagman High School (did not finish),

and Southern High School (disqualified). The Ayuyus did not finish the race due to an accident, while Southern had an infraction.

In the finals, all four teams completed the race, but the Dolphins came in first anew with a time of 6:12.10, more than 17 seconds ahead of Southern (6:30.73).

Mt. Carmel was third at 6:54.95, while Kagman finished fourth at 7:50.94.

In the 500m finals, MHS also had the best time at 3:16.53, which was slower than its preliminary time of 2:57.40. Southern and Mt. Carmel were in a close fight, timing in at

See DOLPHINS on Page 27

K Seniors tame Wild Bill's



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



K. Seniors leaned on Choi Jin Wook's hat-trick to beat

Wild Bill's, 3-2, in the first game of the 2010 NMIFA Men's Invitational Football League last Sunday at the Oleai Sport Complex Field.

The win was K. Seniors' fourth against a loss, moving them up to second place in the team standings behind the undefeated MP United (3-1-0).

Wook lit up the scoreboard with his first goal in the 17th minute. Two minutes later, he made a penalty kick, giving K. Seniors 2-0 halftime lead.

In the second half, Greg Elliot put Wild Bill's in the scoreboard when he found the back of the net in the 52nd minute to cut the lead to one, 1-2. How-

See K SENIORS on Page 27

A K. Senior player goes for a corner kick during their game against Wild Bill's in the NMIFA men's league last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mahi Derby organizers thank sponsors

Organizers of last weekend's 6th Annual Miller Lite Mahi Fishing Derby thanked the many sponsors that contributed in the record-number of boats taking part in this year's competition.

Event chairman John "Pan" Guerrero said the one-day tournament drew 38 boats and close to 100 skippers and their anglers, but it wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of the event's sponsors.

He went on to thank Pacific Trading Company, Marianas Visitors Authority, Shell Marianas, Advance Pest Control & Air-Conditioning, Docomo Pacific, Safety 1st Systems, Inc., Pacific Rainbow Paints, Divi-

sion of Fish & Wildlife, Emergency Management Office, Department of Public Safety (Traffic and Boating divisions), National Park Service, and Smiling Cove Marina for contributing to the success of the derby.

For his part Saipan Fishermen's Association president Gene Weaver was overjoyed with the turnout for the event, which began 6am and finished 5pm Saturday, April 10.

"It was an interesting derby. We were not expecting that many participants and we are pleased with the turnout," he said.

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Second place captain and crew of the Carmelita receive their prize at the 6th Annual Miller Lite Mahi Fishing Derby last April 10, at Smiling Cove Marina in Saipan. From left are anglers Salvador Koshiro and Alex Castro Jr., skipper Alex Castro Sr., Saipan Fishermen's Association president Gene Weaver and event chairman John "Pan" Guerrero.

CNMI Junior Tennis Championships draw 84 players

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 2010 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships will have a big field, as 84 players are competing in the two-weekend tournament that will kick off today in two venues.



The first week of the tournament will run today until tomorrow and will have both singles and doubles competitions at the Pacific Islands Club hard court and the American Memorial Park tennis courts. The

second week of the annual tournament is set from April 23 to 25.

Boys and girls singles and doubles events are divided into various age groups: 10-and-under division, 14-and-under, and 18-and-under.

Results of the national junior cham-

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